

ADVISEMENT OF RIGHTS

IMMEDIATE INCOME WITHHOLDING

If you are ordered to pay child support and an immediate income withholding is ordered, the money you are obligated to pay for child support will be taken out of your pay by your employer and forwarded by your employer to the appropriate place.

When a Wage Withholding Order is entered, there is a delay between the time that the order is entered and the time that your employer starts to take the money out of your pay. It is your responsibility to make sure that this money gets paid each week according to the Court's order.

CONTEMPT PROCEEDING

If you have been cited into court for failure to pay your child support order and the family support magistrate determines that incarceration may be indicated, you will be advised of your right to be represented by an attorney and your right to a court-appointed attorney if you are indigent (financially unable to pay). If you claim you are indigent and want an attorney to represent you, the family support magistrate will determine if you are indigent and if the magistrates finds you indigent, the magistrate will appoint an attorney to represent you.

PATERNITY PROCEEDING

If you are in court because you have been named the father of child in a Paternity Petition, you have the right to have an attorney represent you. If you do not have the funds to hire your own attorney or the earning capacity to earn funds to hire your own attorney, you can ask the family support magistrate to appoint an attorney to represent you. You also have the right to have genetic (DNA) testing done. If you do not have the funds to pay for the genetic testing, you can ask the family support magistrate to order the state to pay for the genetic testing. If the family support magistrate finds you indigent (financially unable to pay) for those purposes, the magistrate will appoint an attorney to represent you and/or order the state to pay for the genetic testing. You will be ordered to reimburse the state if you are found to be the child's father.

There are many rights and obligations that are created by the establishment of a parent/child relationship, not the least of which is the obligation to contribute to the child's support. That obligation is not only prospective from today on, but you will be obligated to pay past due support. The past due support obligation can go back three years from the date the paternity petition is filed with the court or the date of the child's birth, whichever is the shorter period of time. There are other rights and obligations such as inheritance rights and rights to certain social security disability benefits to name just two.

CONNECTICUT CHILD SUPPORT AND ARREARAGE GUIDELINES

If you are in court to have a child support order established or if you already have a child support order and are in court because you or the other party has asked to have an existing order changed, child support orders are set in accordance with the Connecticut child Support and Arrearage Guidelines regulations. Copies of those regulations will be available to you free of charge if you ask for them.

MODIFICATION (CHANGE) OF SUPPORT ORDERS

Only the court can change a court order for child support and only if you, or the other party, take the necessary steps to have the matter heard in court.