

How to open a case

Any parent, guardian or caretaker of a child for whom child support is needed is eligible for child support services. There is no income or other eligibility requirement for services.

Individuals currently receiving CalWORKS are automatically referred to their local child support office for services.

If you are not a CalWORKS beneficiary, California charges an annual service fee of \$35.

You can apply online at www.childsupport.ca.gov or download and complete the child support services application packet and return it to the closest office. See our website for locations.

Local child support offices

Alameda
Amador/Alpine
Calaveras/Tuolumne
Butte
Colusa
Contra Costa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Fresno
Glenn
Humboldt/Trinity
Imperial
Inyo/Mono
Kern
Kings
Lake
Lassen
Los Angeles
Madera
Marin
Mariposa/Merced
Mendocino
Monterey
Napa
Orange

Placer
Plumas
Riverside
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Francisco
San Joaquin
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz/San Benito
Shasta
Sierra/Nevada
Siskiyou/Modoc
Solano
Sonoma
Stanislaus
Sutter
Tehama
Tulare
Ventura
Yolo
Yuba

For more information on
child support visit:

www.childsupport.ca.gov

Contact California Child Support Services

866.901.3212

toll-free (within the U.S.)

TTY | 866.399.4096

Child Support Overview

CALIFORNIA
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

**Customer
CONNECT**

See your case information 24/7!



Gavin Newsom
*Governor
State of California*

CHHS

Mark Ghaly
*Secretary
California Health & Human Services Agency*

CALIFORNIA
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

David Kilgore
*Director
California Child Support Services*



Who are we?

California Child Support Services assists in establishing and enforcing financial and medical support orders for children. Services are offered to either parent or any legal guardian or caretaker of children under 18. We provide neutral assistance to help all parties navigate the child support and court processes.

What is a child support case?

A child support case may be opened by either parent and creates a child support order, tracks payments, locates financial assets, and enforces child support obligations. Under federal and state law, parents have a legal duty to provide financial and medical support for their children.

We can help with:

- Establishing new orders for financial support of children
- Establishing medical support orders
- Locating parents
- Establishing legal parentage
- Enforcing new and existing child support orders
- Reducing past due child support debt
- Modifying child support orders
- Processing and tracking payments
- Keeping case records
- Granting access to the online self-service account portal

Child support offices do not:

- Handle custody or visitation matters
- Handle divorces
- Obtain or enforce restraining orders
- Establish spousal support orders

Resources

Want more information?

Find it and other resources at:
www.childsupport.ca.gov

How a Child Support Case Works
Select "Our Agency"

Apply for Child Support Services
Select "Services We Offer"

Make a Payment
Select "Quick Links"

Contact Customer Relations
Select "How To"

Frequently Asked Questions
Select "Forms & Info"

Employers Information
Select "Employers"

10 Steps of the Child Support Process*

*If you already have a child support court order and need assistance enforcing that order, we can help. Contact your local child support agency to open a case.

Want to learn more information about the child support process?



Visit the Video Resource Library at:
www.childsupport.ca.gov
Select Forms and Info



Apply for child support services

Either parent can apply for support or open a child support services case, as can a child's legal guardian.



Locate the parents if necessary

Before a child support order can be made, both parents of the child or children must be located.



Summons & Complaint

The parent being asked to pay will be legally notified that they are named in a child support case.



Establish legal parentage

If named in a case, you have the right to request proof of parentage. We offer free genetic testing.



Create a "Stipulated Agreement"

If both parents can agree on an amount, they can avoid court by filing a "Stipulated Agreement."



Court sets the child support order

A judge or commissioner reviews all the information and decides on a child support amount.



Begin making payments

After a child support order is set, payments are scheduled to begin, usually by payroll deduction.



Enforce the child support order

Parents who refuse to pay or delay paying their child support will face enforcement actions.



Change the child support order

If either party has a change in circumstances after child support is set, they may qualify for "modification."



Closing a child support case

There are many reasons why a child support case can be closed. Visit our website for more information.