

WHAT IS CHILD SUPPORT?

Every child is entitled to financial and emotional support from **both** parents. This is true even if the child's parents do not live together and were never married. If you are the parent of a child, Rhode Island State law holds you responsible for the financial support of that child *until the child is 18*, even if you have never lived with the child or do not live with the child now.



HELP FOR BOTH PARENTS

All parents, regardless of whether they have custody of their children, may receive child support services. However, services provided to custodial parents differ from those provided to non-custodial parents.

Parents *not* receiving public assistance can apply for services at the Office of Child Support Services. They are charged a one-time \$20.00 fee.

Parents who receive public or medical assistance for a child whose other parent does not live with them are automatically referred for services. They do not pay any fee for child support services.

SERVICES OFFERED AT THE OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

Locating parents: If you don't know where your child's other parent is, the child support office will help you locate him/her.

Establishing paternity: When an individual has been legally determined the father of a child, his paternity has been established. When parents are married and a child is born, the husband is the legal father and his name appears on the child's birth certificate. To create the same legal relationship between unmarried parents and children, paternity must be established



*OCSS also assists Non-Custodial parents to modify their child support order if they become unemployed or underemployed. The request form is available at www.cse.ri.gov.



Establishing child and medical support orders: The Office of Child Support Services will help parents take the necessary steps to establish a child and/or medical support order. Medical support means the other parent will provide either health insurance coverage for your child or a cash contribution.

Enforcement of orders: If payments are made on time and medical coverage for the child is maintained, enforcement is not necessary. When enforcement is necessary, it is carried out through administrative means by the agency or through the court.

Some examples:

- Income Withholding
- Tax refund intercepts
- License Suspension
- Seizure of assets: [Bank accounts, Property, Liens, etc.]
- Insurance Settlement Intercept



Direct Deposit: The electronic transfer of **child support payments** into your checking or savings account.

The goal of the Office of Child Support Services is to help you with your child support case. But we cannot be successful alone. We need your assistance.



We have developed this brochure to help you understand the child support process so that you can assist us with your case.

WHY SHOULD I READ THIS PAMPHLET?

Child Support is all about children. Unfortunately, many people do not understand the intent of child support. Child support services are **not** intended to punish or inconvenience either parent, but to make sure that children get financial support from **both** of their parents. This pamphlet was written to help parents understand what happens when one or both parents seek child support services.



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Department of Human Services OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES



CHILD SUPPORT: *All about your child.*

OUR MISSION: To enhance the well-being of children by assuring that assistance in obtaining child support, including financial and medical, is available to children through locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing support obligations, and monitoring and enforcing those obligations.



Common Questions

