

Resources

DSHS Children's Administration (CA)

800-746-6521

CLEAR

(free legal advice if you qualify)

888-201-1014

Laws

- 42 U.S.C. Section 654 (4)
- RCW 74.20.010
- RCW 74.20A.030

Web sites

Contact the courts at

www.courts.wa.gov/

Division of Child Support

www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/

E-mail

DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov

DCS Brochures

22-652 Child Support Order
Review and Modification

Call the DCS office nearest you or call
800-442-KIDS (5437) to find the office
handling your case.

DCS Offices

Everett 800-729-7580
425-438-4800

Fife 866-243-4449
253-922-0454

Kennewick 800-345-9981
509-374-2000

Olympia 800-345-9964
360-664-6900

Seattle 800-526-8658
206-341-7000

Spokane 800-345-9982
509-363-5000

Tacoma 800-345-9976
253-597-3700

Vancouver 800-345-9984
360-696-6100

Wenatchee 800-535-1113
509-886-6800

Yakima 800-441-0859
509-249-6000

Headquarters 800-457-6202
360-664-5000



How to Work With Child Support When Your Children are in Foster Care

Why do I pay child support when my child is in foster care?

Federal and state laws require parents to support their children when the children are in foster care.

When do I pay child support for foster care?

- Each time the child enters foster care, either by voluntary placement or by court order.
- Whenever the child or the child's custodian receives public funds for the child's care
- Whenever the child's physical custodian asks for support enforcement services

Who pays the child support?

- Mothers
- Fathers
- Parents who receive adoption support payments from Washington State

What foster care costs are paid for by child support?

Foster care residential costs like:

- licensed foster care homes
- licensed group homes
- institutions for children with special care needs

When is child support not paid for foster care services?

- When the Children's Administration (CA) files a "Children in Need of Supervision" (CHINS) order and the order waives child support. A CHINS order is effective for a maximum of nine months
- When the Community Services Office finds there is good cause not to reimburse public assistance (TANF) money

What if my child gets social security or other government benefits?

While your child is in foster care, CA asks the Social Security Administration (SSA) to send any benefits the child gets to CA. SSA may require you to pay back any benefits you receive while the child is in foster care.

DCS credits disability dependent benefits toward your child support if you receive

- Social Security Disability (SSD) or
- Labor and Industry disability

I must meet certain conditions before my child can return home. I cannot afford these extra expenses and pay child support. What can I do?

The expenses related to family reunification may be a reason for reduced child support. When CA reports family reconciliation costs to DCS, we consider these expenses when setting the child support payment amount.

What if my circumstances changed since the child support amount was set?

A change in your: income, resources, or the number of children in your home are reasons to review the child support payment amount. It is your responsibility to tell DCS when any of these changes happen. DCS reviews the changes to see if the payment can be changed (modified).

If your child returns home from foster care, and later goes back to foster care, DCS automatically resumes enforcement of any prior support order.

What if I was paying child support before my child entered foster care?

If you are paying family reconciliation costs and these costs are not included in your support order you can ask to have the court ordered expenses considered as a reason to change the child support payment.

To change court orders:

- Petition the court or DCS for a modification

To adjust administrative orders:

- DCS credits the expenses to your case

You must send DCS proof you paid reconciliation costs.

How does DCS collect child support?

DCS collects the support set in court or administrative orders. Many orders require DCS to deduct child support from your wages even if you are current in your child support payments.

What if I disagree with the child support payment amount?

- Call DCS to ask for a Conference Board or Administrative Hearing.
- Contact an attorney for legal advise

**Read all notices carefully.
If you disagree, act quickly.
There are deadlines for hearing requests. Contact DCS immediately if you have any questions.**