



## COLLECTING OR PAYING CHILD SUPPORT (GEORGIA) FACT SHEET



### Collecting or Paying Child Support

The Department of Human Services' Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) helps you collect or pay child support.

#### What You Should Know

Before opening a child support case, you should collect any relevant documents, including your children's birth certificates and Social Security cards, court custody orders, proof of income, and contact information for both parents.

You should be aware that private agencies may claim to help you collect child support, but many of these will charge you a fee. The DCSS offers assistance **at little or no cost**, and you'll receive 100% of child support payments owed to your family.

#### How do I file for child support?

Apply online and pay the \$25 fee by credit card, money order or personal check. If you receive benefits from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Medicaid, you can apply for free.

Find the noncustodial parent. Where does that parent live and work?

If you're a mother, confirm that the father is legally recognized as a parent. If you aren't sure who your child's father is, DCSS will help you set up an appointment for genetic testing.

File a support order.

#### How do I receive payments?

You can receive payments through either a debit card or direct deposit.

#### How do I pay child support?

Many states require payments to be taken directly from your paycheck. If you send payments on your own, however, you can do so online through your bank account, your credit card or Western Union. You may also send your payments by mail.

## **How do I change the amount of child support due?**

Both parents have the right to ask DCSS to review a child support order three years after the order becomes effective, unless either parent can show substantial change in circumstances for orders less than three years old. The request must be made in writing to the child support office handling your case.

## **What happens when the non-custodial parent doesn't pay?**

When the noncustodial parent does not pay the full amount or does not pay at all, enforcement action is necessary.

For further assistance regarding court ordered child support in Georgia visit: [www.dcss.dhs.georgia.gov](http://www.dcss.dhs.georgia.gov). If you need additional assistance initiating, enforcing or fulfilling your child support obligations, please contact our office at 706-545-3281/3282 in order to schedule an appointment.



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