

FACT SHEET

Child Support

The Ohio child support program provides services that help to ensure that children receive the financial and medical support they are legally entitled to and deserve. More than one million children in Ohio are involved in the program. By working with both parents, the program seeks to establish support orders and maintain reliable and consistent support payments. Research has shown that when support payments are ongoing, noncustodial parents are more involved in the lives of their children. Having both parents involved in a child's life results in a healthier and more responsible child.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Child Support, establishes policies and guidelines for the program based on the rules and requirements of federal and state laws. The office provides leadership and guidance to county child support enforcement agencies and processes all collections and disbursements of support payments. Ohio's child support program consistently ranks as one of the best in the nation. This achievement reflects a joint, dedicated effort involving federal, state and county agencies.

Child Support Enforcement Agencies

The county child support enforcement agencies administer the program's services directly to the public. In some counties, child support is a division within the county department of job and family services. In others, it is associated with a county prosecutor's office, a court of common pleas or a county commissioners' office. To find the child support enforcement agency in your county, call (800) 686-1556 toll-free or visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/cntydir.stm>. Services available at child support enforcement agencies include:

- Location of noncustodial parents,
- Paternity establishment,
- Establishment and enforcement of support and medical support orders, and
- Review and possible modification of support orders – for example, if either parent becomes unemployed or experiences a significant loss of income.

Who is eligible for child support services?

Child support services are available to help parents and caretakers manage their child support cases. If an individual with a child receives public assistance, and the other parent is not living in the home, he or she is automatically referred to the county child support office to establish a support case. If a participant is not on public assistance and chooses not to complete the child support application, some services are available, but others – such as the offset of federal tax refunds and the withholding of unemployment compensation benefits – will not be available. For additional information regarding services, please contact your local child support enforcement agency.

How are payments made?

In October 2009, Ohio passed a law to require employers with more than 50 employees to remit payments electronically. With this legislation, Ohio joins several other states with a similar requirement. Nearly all of Ohio's child support disbursements are made electronically. This includes parents and caretakers who receive their child support payments through either eQuickPay, a debit-like MasterCard, or through direct deposit to a bank account.