

HOW TO ESTABLISH CHILD SUPPORT

How can I set up child support?

If your child lives with you and you think that your child's other parent may be responsible for child support, you should contact your local Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). See 32 County CSEA Information Sheet.

What information do I need to give the CSEA?

You will need to give the CSEA information about your child's other parent. Helpful information includes:

- » Other parent's date of birth;
- » Other parent's Social Security number;
- » Other parent's home address;
- » Name and telephone number of other parent's last known employer.

You will also need to give the CSEA information about your income and expenses. You should bring records, including:

- » Payroll check stubs or deposit receipts
- » Copies of any payments you get from any of the following:
 - » Unemployment;
 - » Social Security;
 - » Department of Job & Family Services;
 - » Workers' Compensation;
- » Proof of daycare expenses for when you are at school or work;
- » Proof of any health care expenses that you pay for your child, like doctor's fees, hospital fees, or prescription medications.

What do I need to bring to the CSEA support hearing?

You should be prepared to bring evidence of all the information above to the support hearing. If you go to the hearing on your own you will need to prepare. Think about what you want the judge to know about you and your situation. Think about whether witnesses or documents will help you explain your situation. A checklist can be helpful. At the hearing, the Child Support Agency cannot act as your attorney.

How soon will I get child support?

Even after you give the CSEA all of the information they need, the child support process can be slow and frustrating. It could take three to six months before a hearing is scheduled. Even after the child support order is granted, there can be delays before the money actually gets to you. This is especially true if the other parent is self-employed, working under a false name, or hiding from the authorities.