

## **Child Support Outside California and the United States**

### **California Child Support Services**

[www.childsupport.ca.gov](http://www.childsupport.ca.gov)

#### **When parents live in different states**

When parents live in different states or countries, a child support case can be opened at the local agency in the state where the parent or guardian lives. The agency may ask the other state or country to help establish and enforce the child support order.

#### **Are child support laws the same in every state?**

No. Laws regarding support can vary from state to state.

The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act helps states and countries work together when parents do not live in the same state or country. Federal law requires states to work with each other to establish and enforce child support orders.

#### **What if I already have a child support order?**

Visit your local agency and they will work with the other state to enforce your child support order.

#### **I have an order from one state, but neither of us live in that state. Is this still a good order?**

Yes, the agency handling your case will enforce the most recent order, no matter where the parents live.

#### **Can my child support order be changed?**

Yes. Your case can be reviewed at the request of either parent or your child support specialist. In California, the support amount can go up or down based on many factors, but mainly the income of both parents and the amount of time each spends with the child or children. Your child support agency may need to work with the state where the other parent lives to review and modify the order.

#### **What if I do not have a child support order?**

Enroll online at [www.childsupport.ca.gov](http://www.childsupport.ca.gov) or at any child support agency, and they will assist you with establishing an order in the appropriate court.

#### **Which state decides the child support amount?**

Your child support specialist will determine which state will set or modify the child support amount based on your situation.

#### **Can I make sure the other parent or caretaker won't have access to my personal information?**

Yes, discuss this with your child support specialist. In most cases this information can be protected.

**Will I have to go to the other state?**

No, your child support specialist will handle the case for you. However, you may be asked to be available by telephone for court hearings.

**What should I do if the parent owing support moves away?**

Tell your child support specialist. Child support can be enforced anywhere in the United States and in many other countries.

If you have custody and move away, notify your child support specialist immediately, especially if you apply for aid in a new state. Your case will not automatically transfer, and you must enroll for services in your new state.

**Do I need to know where the other parent lives to enroll for services?**

No, you may still enroll at your local agency and your child support specialist will attempt to locate the other parent. This location information will not be shared with you.

**Can a judge in the other parent's state change my child support amount?**

If the child lives in California and the order is issued in California, with very few exceptions, only a California court can change it.

**When the person receiving support lives in another country**

You may be able to receive your child support electronically by enrolling in International Direct Deposit.

California is currently sending payments electronically through two processes:

- Electronic transfers to international child support agencies who then make payments to the person receiving support, and
- Through International Direct Deposit Enrollment, which requires the person receiving support to complete a form identifying their personal bank account and routing information, the participant's name, and case number. NOTE: California Child Support Services is unable to send funds electronically to some countries.

International Direct Deposit provides more security and eliminates risks. If you are unable to receive your child support by International Direct Deposit, paper checks and electronic payment cards may be available to you.

**California Child Support Services**

[www.childsupport.ca.gov](http://www.childsupport.ca.gov)

866.901.3212

TTY | 866.399.4096

**Customer Connect**

[www.cse.ca.gov/CustomerConnect/login](http://www.cse.ca.gov/CustomerConnect/login)

See your child support information 24/7!

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California Health and Human Services Agency

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California Child Support Services

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