

## When the person receiving support lives in another country

If you live outside the United States, you may be able to receive your child support electronically.

California sends payments electronically through two processes:

- Electronic transfers to international child support agencies who then make payments to the person receiving support; and
- Payments directly to the person receiving support via International Direct Deposit or Electronic Payment Card.

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.

**Call 1-408-273-0073 for more information if you or the other parent lives outside the United States.**

## California Child Support Services

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

866.901.3212

TTY | 866.399.4096

### Enroll Today!



Gavin Newsom  
*Governor  
State of California*

CHHS

Kim Johnson  
*Secretary*

*California Health & Human Services Agency*

CALIFORNIA  
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

Kristen Erickson-Donadee  
*Director*  
*California Child Support Services*

PUB 308

# 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 office in the state where the parent or guardian lives. Your local office 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.

*Because child support laws vary, the federal Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) helps child support agencies work together when parents live in separate states. UIFSA requires states to work with each other to establish and/or enforce child support orders.*

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

You may enroll in services online at [www.childsupport.ca.gov](http://www.childsupport.ca.gov) or by visiting your local office. Your child support specialist will work with the other state to enforce your existing 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 local office handling your case will enforce the most recent order, no matter where in the United States 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. These may include changes in the income of either parent, and the amount of time each parent spends with the child(ren). Your child support specialist 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 by visiting a local office. A child support specialist 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 has jurisdiction to 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?

Your child support specialist will handle the case for you. In most cases, you will not need to go to another state. However, you may be asked to appear virtually or by phone for your court hearings.

## What should I do if the parent owing support moves out of state?

Notify your child support specialist immediately. 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 as your case will not automatically transfer. 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 can enroll in services without knowing the location of the other parent. Your child support specialist will attempt to locate the other parent, so please provide any information you may have.

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

If the child lives in California and the order was issued in California, with very few exceptions, only a California court can change it. For specific questions, contact your local office.

To find an office close to you, visit [www.childsupport.ca.gov](http://www.childsupport.ca.gov) and search for "find a local office."