

## **California Child Support Services**

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

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

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

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

#### **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.

#### **What is the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act?**

The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act is a law that describes how to make and enforce child support orders when the parents do not live in the same state or country. Federal law requires states to cooperate with each other to establish and enforce child support orders.

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

Visit your local child support 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 caseworker 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 caseworker. In California, the child 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?**

Apply online or visit any child support agency and open a case. A caseworker will assist you with getting an order in the appropriate court.

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

Your caseworker will determine which state will set or modify the child support amount based on the specifics of your case.

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

Yes. If you are concerned about the release of personal information, discuss this with your caseworker. In most cases this information can be protected.

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

No, your caseworker 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 caseworker. Child support can be enforced anywhere in the United States, as well as in many other countries.

**What should I do if I move away?**

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

**Do I need to know where the other parent lives to open a case?**

No, you may still open a case at your local child support agency and your caseworker 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 child 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 name, and case number. NOTE: California Child Support Services is unable to send funds electronically to some countries.

International Direct Deposit provides more security to users, eliminating the risks associated with traditional check processing. If you are unable to receive your child support by International Direct Deposit, paper checks and electronic payment cards may be available to you.

For more information on child support visit: [www.childsupport.ca.gov](http://www.childsupport.ca.gov)

**Contact California Child Support Services**

866.901.3212 – Toll-free (within the U.S.)

TTY – 866.399.4096

**Customer Connect**

See your case information 24/7!

**Gavin Newsom**

Governor of State of California

**Mark Ghaly**

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**David Kilgore**

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