

WHO IS THE NONCUSTODIAL PARENT?

A noncustodial parent is the parent without primary physical custody of the children. The Department of Child Support Services recognizes that this term sometimes causes concern especially when a "noncustodial parent" is actively involved, personally and financially, in his or her child's life.

This term is used only to distinguish the payor of child support from the recipient.

WHY DO I HAVE A CASE?

A case is opened for any parent, caretaker or guardian who requests our services. If the child(ren) receives public assistance a case is opened automatically.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

If there is no existing child support order, you will be served with legal documents concerning your case. If fatherhood is in question, genetic testing is available at the Child Support Services office. Once paternity has been resolved, a child support order may be obtained through a judicial process. The amount of support is initially computed according to state guidelines that consider each parent's income and other factors, such as the amount of time each parent spends with the child and any special needs of the child.

You will be required to pay child support through Child Support Services as long as your case is open. Your employer will be obligated to withhold support payments from your wages, as required by law.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?

You have the right to a court hearing. However, you may be able to settle your case out of court by meeting with a case manager at the County Department of Child Support Services.

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE THAT I AM THE FATHER?

As soon as you are served with a legal document that says you are the father of a child, contact the County Department of Child Support Services. You have only 30 days to arrange for no cost genetic testing.

If you ignore this document or wait beyond the 30 days, the court **will** establish you as the legal father by default. You may be required to provide medical support and pay child support in an amount set by the court.

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH THE AMOUNT?

Child Support Services welcomes the opportunity to review any information you can provide that will affect your order.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T PAY?

There are serious consequences for failure to pay court-ordered support. Interest will be charged on your unpaid balance. You can lose your driver's and professional license. Unpaid child support is reported to credit bureaus. Your tax refunds can be intercepted. Liens are put on your real property. Additional enforcement actions can be taken.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

Carefully read all paperwork that is sent to you. Contact Child Support Services if you have any questions or concerns. You may want to talk to a private attorney. Pay your support in full and on time. Keep accurate records of all payments and visitation. If you pay by cash, insist on a receipt. This will help if you have a dispute or a question concerning your case.

Notify Child Support Services of any change in circumstances that could affect your case. These changes may include:

- Custody & visitation
- Income
- Employment
- Worker's compensation
- Disability status
- Address
- Marital status
- Changes to your family size
- Incarceration

Providing this information may benefit you and could affect the amount you are expected to pay.



The Department of Child Support Services does not represent either party.

WHO ARE WE?

The Department of Child Support Services provides services at no cost to parents, guardians and caretakers of minor children. Our services are available regardless of marital status.

WHAT WE DO:

- Establish paternity.
- Establish child and medical support orders.
- Enforce and modify child and medical support orders.
- Collect and distribute child and spousal support payments.



Financial support and parental involvement determine what a child has, what that child can do, and who that child is becoming.



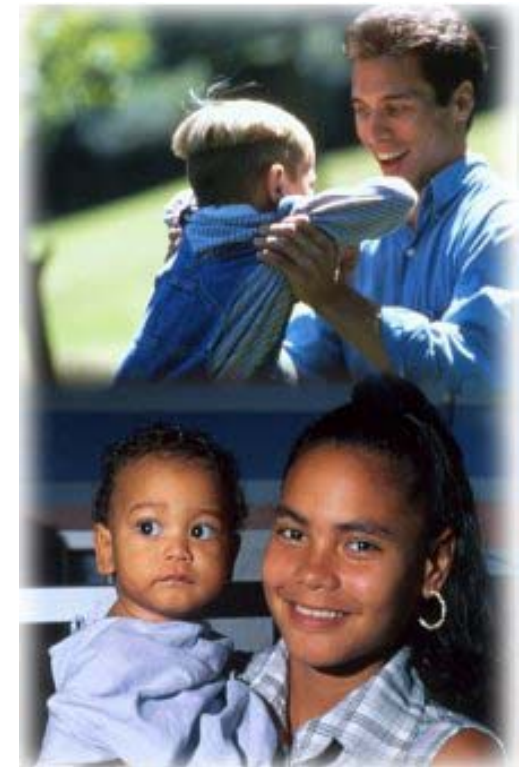
**County of San Diego
Department of Child Support Services**
220 W. Broadway, Rm 5003,
San Diego CA 92101

Tel. No: (619) 236-7600
Toll Free: (866) 230- CARE

www.sandiegochildsupport.com



Information for the Noncustodial Parent



**County of San Diego
Department Of Child Support Services**