Child support services

Minnesota child support agencies help children get the support they deserve by working with parents, non-parent caretakers, employers, government agencies and other states. Child support agencies have unique access to some information and sources.

Help for parents and caretakers
Child support services are available to:
- Parents of minor children if one parent does not live with the child
- Parents who pay court-ordered child support
- People who have court-ordered physical custody of a minor child
- People who receive public assistance for a minor child who lives in their home.

Child support services
Full child support services include:
- Locating parents
- Establishing parentage
- Establishing and enforcing court orders for basic support, medical support and child care support
- Reviewing and modifying court orders for support
- Adjusting court orders based on the cost-of-living index
- Working with other states to establish and enforce support orders when one parent does not live in Minnesota
- Collecting and processing payments.

Income withholding-only services are also available. Contact a child support agency for information.

Services not available
Child support agencies do not help with:
- Divorces
- Parenting time or custody assistance
- Spousal maintenance order establishment or modification
- Collection of:
  - Bills not related to support
  - Property settlements
  - Attorney’s fees, except in limited circumstances (Minn. Stat. §518A.735)
- Legal advice or counsel.

Enforcement tools
Child support agencies use tools to enforce support orders, including:
- New hire reporting
- Federal, state, and property tax interception
- Lottery winnings interception
- Credit bureau reporting
- Driver’s, occupational, hunting and fishing license suspension
- Passport denial
- Contempt of court proceedings.

Collecting and paying support
Most support is collected by withholding income from parents’ paychecks. If income withholding is not available, other payment options include:
- Online payments through Minnesota Child Support Online
Cash payments through PayNearMe and MoneyGram
Mailing payments to the Child Support Payment Center
Automatic recurring withdrawal.

Receiving support
Support payments are sent to the obligee through direct deposit into a checking account, savings account, or stored value card account.

Fees
Cost Recovery Fee – The applicant pays a 2% fee on payments received on certain nonpublic assistance cases, up to a maximum amount. The state’s Child Support Division uses the fee to offset the cost of providing child support services for children.
Federal Annual Fee – The person receiving support pays a mandatory $35 fee, collected by the Child Support Division on eligible child support cases that have at least $550 of support collected and disbursed during the federal fiscal year.
Federal Tax Refund Offset Fee – The person receiving support pays a mandatory $25 fee to the Child Support Division, collected through a Federal Tax Offset that applies to nonpublic assistance arrears. The fee is charged for each refund, per case, where the refund applied to the case is $100 or more.
State Tax Refund Offset Fee – The person providing support pays the Commissioner of Revenue a $15 fee for each collection it makes through state tax intercept.
Other states’ fees – If the child support agency refers the case to another state for enforcement, the other state may charge a fee for a particular service.

Tribal child support services
Tribal members may be able to receive services from a tribal program. For more information, contact a child support agency or one of the following Tribal IV-D Child Support Programs:

- Red Lake Nation Child Support Program
  218-679-3350
  http://www.rlnn.org
- White Earth Nation Child Support Program
  218-983-4641
  http://whiteearth.com
- Leech Lake Child Support Program
  218-339-8600
  http://www.llojibwe.org
- Mille Lacs Band Child Support Program
  320-532-7755
  http://www.millelacsband.com

Resources
Payment and case information
- Minnesota Child Support Online at https://www.childsupport.dhs.state.mn.us/Action/Welcome provides up-to-the-minute case and payment information on a secure website.
- The Payment Information Line at 651-431-4340 or 800-657-3512 provides up-to-the-minute payment information.

Minnesota child support offices
A list of Minnesota child support offices, including contact information, can be found at https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/services/child-support/contact-us/county-offices.jsp.

General information
The Minnesota Child Support Help Desk is available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling 651-431-4400.

Minnesota Department of Human Services at mn.gov/dhs/ provides more information about child support services, online forms, brochures and other programs.
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For accessible formats of this information, ask your county worker.

For assistance with additional equal access to human services, contact your county’s ADA coordinator.