



START CURRENT STAY CURRENT

*A child support guide
for new fathers*



Congratulations! You are starting the most important job of your life – being a dad. This guide will help answer questions you may have about supporting your child. Oklahoma Child Support Services wants to help you be the best dad you can be. Let's take a look at some of the most common questions about child support.

Why Should I Pay Child Support?

Children need love, food, clothing and medical care to be healthy and happy. Child support helps pay for a child's needs. If a child gets what they need from both parents, they will be better prepared for the future.

The parent who lives with the child can take better care of the child when they get child support. They can make sure the child has food and clothing. Plus they can spend more time with the child if they are not working extra jobs to make ends meet.



The parent who does not live with the child can feel better making sure their child has food and clothing. Also, they will get along better with the other parent and the child knows they can count on them. The child will see them as a caring and involved parent. It is also the right thing to do.

Why Should I Open a Child Support Case?

Getting a child support order and paying child support while your child is young is a smart thing to do. Judges can order back child support payments for up to five years. Starting early keeps you from owing a large amount of back child support. Making payments through OKDHS also gives you a good record of what you have paid.

Who Can Apply for Child Support Services?

Any parent or person taking care of a child can apply for child support services.

Can Child Support Help Me Get Custody or Visitation?

OCSS does not handle visitation or custody issues. Until otherwise ordered by a court, written agreements, preferably agreements that are a result of mediation are encouraged to document the scope of the legal and physical custody of the child. Parents should seek the advice of an attorney and/or mediator.

How Can a Child Support Office Help Me?

OCSS can:

- Answer questions about child support
- Help find a missing parent
- Help get child support orders
- Help get child support orders changed
- Help collect child support payments even across state lines

OCSS cannot:

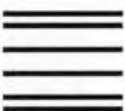
- Represent either parent in court
- Give you legal advice on what you should do

How Do I Apply?

Fill out the attached card and mail it in. OCSS will send you an application. You can also call the CARE Customer Call Center to ask for an application or you can download the application from the Internet at <http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/ocss/> Click on the “Apply for Services” link.

How Much Will It Cost Me?

There is no cost to apply for child support services. Your child support payment amount is set by a judge based on how much money both parents make each month. To see how much this might be, you can go to the child support calculator at <http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/ocss/>. Click on the “Calculate Child Support” link.



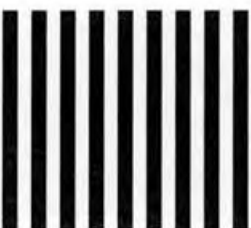
NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 601 OKLAHOMA CITY OK

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Oklahoma Child Support Services
PO Box 53552
OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73152-9902



How to get a Child Support application:

1. Fill in the information below
2. Sign the card
3. Mail the card

No stamps are needed.

Your name (print)

Address

City/State/Zip Code

Phone number

Child's name

Child's mother's name

Signature

Date

If you need any help filling out this card, please call the CARE Customer Call Center toll free at 1-800-522-2922.

- Oklahoma City area
(405) 522-2273
- Tulsa area (918) 295-3500

I Have Other Questions About Child Support

Call the CARE Customer Call Center toll free at 1-800-522-2922. In the Oklahoma City Metro area, call 522-2273. In the Tulsa Metro area, call 295-3500.

How Can I Pay Child Support If I Don't Have a Job?

There are lots of ways to find a job. There are both public and private agencies that can help.

Some of the public agencies are:

Workforce Oklahoma –
<http://www.workforceok.org/locator.htm>
1-888-980-WORK (9675)

Oklahoma Employment Securities
Commission – <http://www.oesc.ok.gov>
(405) 557-7100

State of Oklahoma, Office of Personnel
Management – <http://www.ok.gov/opm>
(405) 521-2177

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation
Services –
<http://www.okrehab.org/seekers/index.htm>
1-800-487-4042

Oklahoma Department of Career and
Technology Education –
<http://www.okcareertech.org>
(405) 377-2000



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OKDHS Pub. No. 05-11

Revised 3/2010

This publication is authorized by the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services in accordance with state and federal regulations and printed by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services at a cost of \$1,010.00 for 5,050 copies. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. OKDHS offices may request copies on ADM-9 (23AM009E) electronic supply orders. Members of the public may obtain copies by contacting the OKDHS Records Center at (405) 962-1721 or 1-877-283-4113 (toll free).