



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. The Oklahoma Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement 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 5 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?

CSE cannot get you an order giving you custody or visitation. For help in those areas, you will want to talk to your own lawyer. However, paying child support may help you get custody or visitation since you are being responsible for your child.

How Can a Child Support Office Help Me?

CSE 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

CSE cannot:

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



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 this card out, please call the CARE Customer Call Center at:

- Oklahoma City area
(405) 522-2273
- Tulsa area (918) 295-3500
- Other areas 1-800-522-2922

How Do I Apply?

Fill out the attached card and mail it in. CSE 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 at <http://www.okdhs.org>.

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 you make each month. To see how much this might be, you can go to the child support calculator at <http://www.okdhs.org>.

I Have Other Questions About Child Support

Call the CARE Customer Call Center.
Oklahoma City area (405) 522-2273
Tulsa area (918) 295-3500
Other areas 1-800-522-2922



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.state.ok.us/>
(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/jobseekers.html>
1-800-487-4042

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

