

Legal Helps

Northwest Justice Project's Coordinated Legal Education, Advice & Referral (CLEAR) Project

888-201-1014

<http://www.nwjustice.org>

Employment Security Department Work Source

800-362-4636

<http://www.wa.gov/esd>

Washington State Bar Association

To find legal referral services in your county call

800-945-9722

<http://www.wsba.org>

Web sites

Access Washington: State Government
Information and Services

<http://www.access.wa.gov>

Contact the courts

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/>

Division of Child Support

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/>

The Washington State Labor Council

<http://www.wslc.org>

E-mail

DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov

Call the DCS office nearest you or
call 800-442-KIDS (5437) to find
the office handling your case.

DCS Offices

Everett 800-729-7580
425-438-4800

Fife 866-243-4449
253-922-0454

Kennewick 800-345-9981
509-374-2000

Olympia 800-345-9964
360-664-6900

Seattle 800-526-8658
206-341-7000

Spokane 800-345-9982
509-363-5000

Tacoma 800-345-9976
253-597-3700

Vancouver 800-345-9984
360-696-6100

Wenatchee 800-535-1113
509-886-6800

Yakima 800-441-0859
509-249-6000

Headquarters 800-457-6202
360-664-5000



I do not
have a job,
what
happens to
my child
support?

What happens to my child support now that I do not have a job?

Your child support order sets the payment amount we must collect. You owe child support even when you do not have a job. The Division of Child Support (DCS) does not stop taking collection actions when you are not earning wages.

Will DCS take my unemployment benefits?

Yes, DCS takes payments from unemployment benefits. If you pay child support to the Washington State Support Registry (WSSR), DCS can withhold up to 50 percent (half) of your benefits. If half of your benefit is not enough to pay current support, you can pay the difference directly to WSSR. DCS adds any unpaid payments to the past due amount you owe.

I owe a large support debt to the State of Washington, and I need the payment lowered.

You can talk with your Support Enforcement Officer (SEO) about lowering the past due support payment. If you and your SEO cannot agree on a payment amount, ask for a Conference Board.

A Conference Board is an informal review that allows you to talk with a Conference Board Chair (DCS attorney) about your disagreement with DCS. If your dispute cannot be resolved in a written decision, a phone or in-office meeting is held.

A Conference Board can give you relief from a collection action, or from a high support debt owed to the state. For more information about Conference Boards, contact your SEO and ask for our brochure titled, “Do You Need a Conference Board?” (DSHS 22-386).

What do I do if my unemployment benefits change or I return to work?

Call your SEO as soon as you know your income is changing. If you do not contact your SEO, DCS can send a payroll deduction to your new employer for up to 50 percent of your take home pay.

My income is lower on the new job. How do I get my child support payment changed?

Ask your SEO for a modification review to see if your case meets the rules that allow DCS to refer it to the prosecuting attorney for modification. DCS asks you and the other parent to complete review forms and confirms your incomes. The review process can take over 30 days.

Ask for DCS brochure 22-652, “Child Support Review and Modification.”

When a court sets child support

Once a year and at your own expense, you as a custodial or non custodial parent can petition the court to change (modify) the child support order by:

- Hiring an attorney or
- Going to court on your own (pro se) with help from a family law court facilitator.

Facilitator’s help parents understand the way the court works and provide the forms needed to modify a court order. Court Facilitators charge a fee and do not give legal advice or provide legal representation. Forms are available at <http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms/>

The good things about modifying your court order on your own or by using an attorney are:

- A Superior Court Judge can hear the case faster
- DCS must send a case to the prosecuting attorney to see if the case meets their modification rules. The DCS process can take up to 6 months.

When a Washington State Administrative Order sets child support

Either parent can ask DCS to modify the support order without asking for a review. If your income changed since DCS entered the administrative order, you can ask for an administrative hearing.

I do not have a case with DCS, what can I do?

If you are paying or receiving child support directly from the other party, but you want DCS to review your court order, you can apply for full collection services and ask for a review for modification.