

Legal Help

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

888-201-1014

<http://www.nwjustice.org>

Employment Security Department

800-318-6022

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

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>

**Court forms, courthouse facilitator
programs, court locations and other
useful information**

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

Division of Child Support:

www.childsupportonline.wa.gov

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 |
| 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?**



DCS Division of Child Support

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

You owe child support even when you do not have a job. Your child support order sets the payment amount the Division of Child Support (DCS) must collect. 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 current support 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. The SEO cannot change the amount of current support in your order.

You can ask for a Conference Board. A Conference Board is an informal review of your case and situation by a Conference Board Chair (DCS attorney). The Conference Board Chair decides if a phone or in office meeting will be held and if additional DCS staff will be at the meeting to help decide what action DCS will take in response to your request. The Conference Board Chair issues a written decision about the relief that you requested.

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, "Child Support Conference Boards?" (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 may 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 order changed?

Ask for DCS brochure 22-652, "Changing a Child Support Order-Review and Modification."

When a court order sets child support

If your order is at least one year old you can ask the court to change (modify) the amount of your order if your life has changed in a serious and unexpected way or if the order causes you severe economic hardship.

If your order is at least two years old you can ask the court to change (modify) the amount of your order because your income has changed.

If your order is at least three years old, ask your SEO for a modification review to see if DCS will refer your case to the prosecuting attorney for modification. DCS asks you and the other parent to complete review forms and confirms your incomes.

If your case meets the requirements for the DCS process, DCS refers your case to a prosecuting attorney. The prosecuting attorney chooses whether or not to file the case in court.

If your case does not meet the requirements for the DCS modification process you can:

- hire an attorney, or
- go to court on your own (pro se) with help from a family law court facilitator. Ask for DCS brochure "How to Obtain or Modify a Child Support Order on Your Own".

Court facilitator's help parents understand the way the court works and provide the forms needed to change the amount of 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:

- It can be faster.
- A Superior Court Judge can hear your case even if it doesn't qualify for the DCS process.

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 a paying parent or a receiving parent for child support in a court order and, you want DCS to review your court order, you can apply for full collection services and ask for a review for modification.