

## Did You Know?

- If your child is already receiving a portion of your VA disability, we may be able to credit that amount towards your child support payment.
- If your child is covered under TRICARE, you may already meet the requirements for medical coverage included in a child support order.

## Tell us when:

- A child moves in or out of your home.
- You move to a new address.
- You change your name.
- You start working or change jobs.
- There is a new court order changing child support.
- You get deployed or return from a deployment.

We frequently work with parents and caretakers to update and maintain accurate records so we can help collect child support.

Please contact us if the paying parent:

- Changes jobs, becomes unemployed or is injured.
- Uses other names or Social Security numbers.
- Owns cars, houses, investments, or bank accounts.
- Is in jail, prison or work release.

## The DSHS Division of Child Support

We, at the Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Child Support (DCS), strive to help children achieve their full potential by collecting and distributing child support.

Our specially-trained staff is available to answer all your child support questions:

- Call our Community Relations Unit at: 800-457-6202 or 360-664-5200.
- Or visit us online at: [childsupportonline.wa.gov](http://childsupportonline.wa.gov).



## “Serving Those Who Served”

### A DSHS/DCS – WDVA Partnership

*The Washington State DSHS Division of Child Support (DCS) and the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) are partnering together to help veterans get all the benefits that they have earned and assist them with their child support issues.*

**We are here  
TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS  
Please call us today!**

### The DSHS Division of Child Support

1-800-457-6202 or  
360-664-5200

[childsupportonline.wa.gov](http://childsupportonline.wa.gov)  
[DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov)

or

### The Department of Veterans Affairs

1-800-562-2308

[www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov)  
[benefits@dva.wa.gov](mailto:benefits@dva.wa.gov)



*Transforming lives*



*“Serving Those Who Served”*



The Department of Social  
and Health Services

## Division of Child Support

in partnership with

## The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs

*Working together  
to serve those  
who served*



## Child support isn't just about money!

Children need support from both parents to reach their full potential. If family situations change and one parent no longer resides in the same home with their child, that parent can continue to supply essential resources through child support.

- Child support provides healthy meals, safe housing and clean clothing, but can also assist with day care, education and medical coverage.
- Child support ensures children can develop the solid foundations needed to grow and thrive.



### We can help you:

- Get straight-forward answers to your questions.
- Examine options available to veterans.
- Establish parentage.
- Establish an administrative order in the absence of a court order.
- Review your case for potential modifications due to changes in income or other life-circumstances, such as separation from service.
- Negotiate a payment plan.
- Locate assistance for visitation and custody issues.
- Connect with Dispute Resolution Centers and county court facilitators.

### Parentage

Parentage creates a legal relationship between parent and child. This helps children obtain entitlements including child support, health care coverage, veteran's benefits and social security.

There are several ways to become a child's legal parent. The most common are to:

- Give birth to the child.
- Get married before the child's birth.
- Sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage (or similar document in another state). The birth certificate legally recognizes the parents who signed the form.
- Go to court. The court may use genetic testing to determine parentage, depending on the case.

### Court and Administrative Orders

In Washington, there are two types of orders used to collect child support; court orders and administrative orders. Both types of orders use the Washington State Child Support Schedule to determine the monthly child support obligation based upon the parent's income.

- Court orders are established by county superior or tribal courts.
- In the absence of a court order, DCS can establish an administrative order.

Both types of orders may establish requirements for medical support, health care coverage, daycare and other child-support-related expenses.

While administrative orders are limited to child-support-related expenses, court orders can also determine custody, parentage, and who claims the child as a dependent on their taxes.

### Modifications

Income and life-circumstances change over time, and it may be appropriate for an order to change, too. For a veteran, this could be due to separation from service, a disability determination or by adding a child to your family.

Child support orders are modified two ways, based upon the type of support order in place. Both types of modifications are prospective, meaning they do not change support that is already due. We are here

to help answer your questions about both types of support order modifications. We will send you the right paperwork to request either type of review and will explain exactly what you should expect during the review process.

For more information on modifications please contact us at: 1-800-442-5437 or [DCSMods@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:DCSMods@dshs.wa.gov).

### Out-of-State Child Support

We work with other states to help establish, modify and collect child support.

Since state laws are not the same, it may be difficult to collect regular support payments when two parents live in different states. When this happens, we can help by working with other states to collect child support payments directly from the out-of-state parent's wages.

Washington state charges the support recipient a \$25 annual fee for this service, unless they have qualified for public assistance.