

Resources

For a referral to low cost or free legal service in your area (if you qualify), call the Coordinated Legal Education Advice and Referral (CLEAR) system for Washington state:

CLEAR

888-201-1014

Or go to: washingtonlawhelp.org

Laws

- Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)
RCW 26.21A
- Section 459A(a) of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act
42.U.S.C. 659A(a)

To contact other states go to:

acf.hhs.gov/programs/css

Courts

courts.wa.gov/

Division of Child Support

dshs.wa.gov/child-support

Email

DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov

International child support questions

ocseinternational@acf.hhs.gov

or

travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/travel-legal-considerations/intl-child-support.html

Division of Child Support 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

If you would like to open a case with the Division of Child Support, you can visit your local child support office, contact us at 800-442-KIDS (5437), or go to our website at:

childsupportonline.wa.gov

Washington State's Child Support Program



Collecting Child Support Across State Lines



Transforming lives

DSHS 22-616 (Rev. 7/22)



Transforming lives

Can I collect child support if the other parent lives in another state?

Yes. When the other parent lives in another state the Division of Child Support (DCS) may send a wage withholding order and health insurance enrollment notice directly to the employer.

Sometimes, DCS asks other states for help enforcing a support order. When we send a referral to another state, we cannot tell the other state how to process the case. Each state has its own child support laws and policies.

DCS can also collect from a parent in Washington state for a custodial parent living in another state.

How do I ask DCS for services?

If you receive public assistance from Washington state, DCS is already working to collect support. DCS may ask you to update information about the other parent's address or employer.

If you believe that DCS involvement could be dangerous for you or your children, contact the Community Services Office to request "good cause not to cooperate with DCS."

Also, if you believe releasing your address or other information to the other party could be dangerous, let DCS know and we can tell the other state to keep that information confidential.

If you do not receive public assistance, DCS provides enforcement services for you upon written request. You can find request forms at dshs.wa.gov/esa/division-child-support/division-child-support-forms.



How long will it take to collect child support from another state?

If DCS asks the other state for help, it may take longer to begin your case. Other factors that can delay case set up include actions by the other parent such as:

- Moving from job to job.
- Changing residences frequently.
- Becoming unemployed and not receiving unemployment compensation.
- Working for cash.
- Self-employment.
- Receiving public assistance.
- Entering jail or a rehabilitation facility.
- Living on an Indian reservation.
- Accepting employment by a tribe, tribal enterprise, or an Indian-owned business located on an Indian reservation or trust land.

What if the other state is not successful?

In all cases, both states continue to check federal, state, and local resources for the other parent's address and assets.

Is there a charge for these services?

DCS charges a \$35 fee each federal fiscal year (between October 1 and September 30) if the Custodial Parent has never received TANF or AFDC, and if DCS has disbursed \$550 or more to the family on the case during the fiscal year.

If another state helps collect support, that state might charge fees or recover the costs of their services. A state may charge the noncustodial parent or the custodial parent. The state may take these charges out of support collected from the noncustodial parent.

Can the other state change the support payment amount or the amount of back support the other parent owes me?

States must honor orders, as they are written, by another state. All states enforce only one order for the same parties. At any time, either parent can petition for a modification of the monthly child support amount.

Can I collect child support if the other parent lives in another country?

Sometimes, DCS does have international agreements that allow us to work with several countries. To learn more, please call 800-457-6202.

How do I get a support order?

A support order may be established if the other parent does not live here. To receive an application for support enforcement services, call 800-442-KIDS (5437), or call the office nearest you listed on the back of this brochure, or find the form online at: dshs.wa.gov/esa/division-child-support/division-child-support-forms.

All DCS records are confidential

You can have someone (a relative, friend, or legal representative) call DCS on your behalf. We can answer general questions for anyone, but we cannot discuss specific case details unless we have your written permission.