

Where Does Your Child Support Go?

CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM: A Resource for Parents ...



Child support paid by non-custodial parents helps California children and families to remain self-sufficient. The support payments also go toward recovering money owed to the state for funds expended by the government for a child receiving public assistance.

The following are questions you may have if you are a non-custodial parent...

■ Where does my child support go?

If your child is not receiving public assistance, the payment goes to the custodial party. If your child is receiving public assistance, the payment is applied to recover the funds expended by the government.

■ I pay \$400 each month, why does the custodial party receive only \$50?

When a child is receiving public assistance, the custodial party is entitled to receive up to \$50 (called a "disregard") from the total child support paid for the month. The rest of the child support amount goes towards recovering public assistance funds.

■ Why does my past due balance go up? I make a payment each month towards my past due balance.

Pursuant to California law, if you owe past due child support, 10% annual interest is charged. If the past due child support balance is high enough, the monthly amount of interest charged will be more than the amount you pay each month.

■ The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) intercepted my IRS tax refund and the custodial party did not receive anything. Where did my money go?

IRS tax intercepts are applied to past due child support only - not to the current child support owed. If there is a past due balance owed to the state, the IRS tax intercept is applied to this balance. Once satisfied, the custodial party will receive the remaining amount.

Why Does it Cost So Much to Raise A Child?

Money is Needed For:

- Housing
- Utilities
- Clothing/Diapers
- Meals/Formula
- Child Care
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Dental/Medical Expenses
- Transportation
- Education
- Miscellaneous Items

Average Annual Cost to Raise a Child¹:

\$11,000-\$13,000

1 "Expenditures on Children by Families, 2009" USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.
<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov>



**Child Support
Directors Association**

A Coalition of Experts Collecting Billions
for California's Children

Contact your local child support agency: 1-866-901-3212, or TTY: 1-866-399-4096
<http://www.childsup.ca.gov>

"Child Support... An Investment in the Future of Our Children"
CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

www.csdaca.org
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