

Bank Levies on Child Support Arrears

CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM: A Resource for Parents ...to Frequently Asked Questions



Under California law, past due child support (arrears) is subject to collection through bank levies. Even if you are making regular child support payments, if you owe child support arrears, the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is required to collect using a number of enforcement remedies including the use of the bank levies.

■ How often will DCSS levy my account?

Levies are generated at random intervals by the child support automated system on all cases where child support arrears are owed and a bank account has been identified bearing the name of the person owing child support.

■ How much money will be withdrawn from my bank account?

If you are not compliant with your child support order, the entire balance (up to the amount of total child support arrears due) can be withdrawn. If you are compliant, the first \$3,500 in your account is exempt. The bank will send all the money to DCSS above the exempt amount, up to the total amount of your arrears balance.

■ Once my account has been levied, would DCSS consider my current situation?

If full payment of the arrears balance due will create an undue hardship, or if you have already paid the amount due, contact us immediately. You have a right to request an administrative review. If you are not satisfied with the administrative review, you have a right to request a Claim of Exemption to have the court review your claim.

■ How long are my accounts frozen?

When the bank receives the levy, they place a hold on the funds for 10 business days. After 10 business days, the money (up to the total amount stated on the levy) is sent to DCSS and the account hold is removed.

■ Will the bank charge me a fee?

Yes, most banks will charge a fee for every levy they receive. The fees can range from \$25.00 to \$150.00 depending on the bank. The fees are set by the bank. The bank will charge you a fee whether or not any money is sent to DCSS. DCSS has no control over the fees charged by your bank. DCSS cannot reimburse the bank fees.

Contact your local child support agency: 1-866-901-3212, or TTY: 1-866-399-4096



**Child Support
Directors Association**

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