



WEBSTER & GARINO

INDIANA LAW FIRM

CHILD SUPPORT IN INDIANA

A GUIDE TO CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN INDIANA

CALCULATING CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN INDIANA

The Most Asked Child Support Question in Indiana: **"Who will pay child support payments, and how much will they be?"**

While the answer is complicated, the answer hinges (in most cases) on five distinct factors:

1. What is your income and what is the other party's income?
2. Do you or the other party have a prior order of child support for other children?
3. Do you or the other party have work-related childcare related to the child in question?
4. Do you or the other party pay for health insurance?
5. How many overnight parenting days does each party exercise pursuant to your agreement or court order?

Once the above information is obtained, agreed upon, or ordered by a court (where appropriate) then the child support payments can be calculated. There are numerous guidelines to properly calculate the appropriate payment amount, which can be found [here](#). The Indiana rules of court surrounding child support guidelines are extensive and require intense review to thoroughly understand. If you have specific questions regarding these guidelines, an experienced family law attorney can assist during a consultation. We offer a free estimate calculator, available [here](#).



HOW TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN INDIANA

The first piece of information you need to pay your child support payments in Indiana is an ISETS number. This is a unique number assigned to your case to keep track of your child support payments. To obtain this number, contact the county clerk for your specific county. In a divorce, paternity or guardianship case, your attorney will assist you in obtaining this number.

Once you have the amount of your child support payments and your ISETS number, you can begin paying your child support. There are numerous ways you can pay Indiana child support payments as follows:

1. An Income Withholding Order or "IWO." This is an order issued by the court that directs your employer to take your child support payments directly out of your paycheck. It will be processed by your employer and associated with your ISETS number so that you get the credit for paying the child support.

2. By personal check, money order, cashier's check or certified check sent to:

**Indiana State Central Collection Unit
PO Box 7130
Indianapolis, IN
46207-7130**

3. Directly to the Indiana State Central Collection Unit. You **MUST** include your ISETS number and the last name of the party who is receiving the child support payment. If you have more than one child support case, send the payments separately. You can make these payments directly to the collection unit in three direct forms:

- Online payments can be made at **<http://childsupportbillpay.com/Indiana>**.
- Telephonic payments can be made by calling **1-866-972-9427**. You will need all your child support payment information available when calling as what would be needed on the above remittance form.
- Cash payments can be made as described here or to the County Clerk's Office in the county in which your case is located.

If your child support case is in a Title IVD court, be sure to keep all records of your payments to ensure that the appropriate amount is credited to your child support payment account

HOW TO DECREASE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS IN INDIANA

Family law recognizes multiple reasons that could authorize the reduction of child support payments in Indiana. To request modifications of payments, you must file a petition to modify child support with a family court. Usually, you would approach the same family court that issued your current child support order. Your legal filings must document a substantial and continuing change in circumstances that would justify the issuance of a new support order for a lower amount.

1. Change in Income

An ongoing decrease in your income or a rise in the recipient's income could call for an adjustment. Although the State's child support guidelines might ultimately authorize a payment reduction based on your income loss or hardship, you must continue meeting the financial obligations set forth within your current support order until a new one is issued by the Court.



2. Birth of Subsequent Children

The birth of additional children to either parent involved in a child support case could call for a recalculation of support amounts.

3. Changes in Child-Related Expenses

Health insurance, medical expenses, or childcare costs can rise or fall depending on many factors. If child related expenses have gone down or up, then you could file a petition to modify child support.



4. Changes in Overnight Parenting Time

The amount of time that children spend with you overnight influences support amounts. When your overnight parenting time increases, a family Court could approve a decrease in payments.

5. Support Order Does Not Reflect Legal Guidelines

Potentially, a Court might decide that your existing support order does not represent a reasonable amount for some other reason. A child support order that deviates from what child support guidelines would authorize by at least 20 percent might qualify for an adjustment. At least 12 months must pass under the terms of your existing order before you can request a re-evaluation and modification. An experienced family law Indiana attorney could assess your situation and determine if you might succeed with a modification petition based on this reason.

6. Parental Agreement

At times, both parents accept that support amounts should be decreased. Even so, you must still petition a Court and obtain an official modification or a new Court order of your child support payments in Indiana. Otherwise, you would be legally responsible for the terms of your current order regardless of a verbal agreement with a co-parent.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Regarding Child Support Payments in Indiana

- **At what age does child support end in Indiana?** Currently, **the age is 19** unless the child is emancipated prior to that age.
- **What happens if I lose my job and cannot pay child support?** Depending on the circumstances, **you may petition the Court for a modification of your child support obligations**. Whether this will be granted or not is decided on a case by case basis and is not guaranteed. An experienced family law attorney can help you determine whether filing for a modification is in your best interest.
- **What if my child is not living with the person I am ordered to pay child support to?** **You may petition the Court to change its order regarding who receives your child support**; however, there are many factors to consider in this situation, which is why we highly recommend seeking legal counsel before moving forward.
- **What is Title IVD Court?** "Title IV" of the Social Security Act of 1975 requires each state to run its own child support collection activities. It also provided federal funding to the States to help in the collection. **"Title IV-D," specifically, refers to state-run child support enforcement programs, which help parents establish paternity, initiate new child support orders, and collect unpaid child support, among other services.** Title IV-D allows the states to use numerous methods to collecting and enforcing child support, including, but not limited to suspending driver's licenses, intercepting tax returns from the federal government, in cases of contempt of a Court order, the Title IVD commissioner (or Judge) can order the non-payer to jail. If you are required to attend Title IVD Court and do not have funds for your own attorney, then a Court can appoint you a public defender under certain circumstances.

The Court will discuss this with you in Court, but you should request counsel if you are faced with jail due to the non-payment of child support.

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- **What if I pay child support for more than one child and one child reaches the age of 19?** In this case, your child support will not automatically change and **you will need to seek out a new Court order** to establish the amount that your new child support payment will be due to the child's emancipation under the law.
 - **What if the person I am paying child support to is not using the money to support the child?** Unfortunately, you, as the payor, **do not have the right to decide how the other person uses the funds**. If you feel that the child is being neglected, meaning that their basic human needs are not being met, then we suggest to reach out to other social services to address that situation or seek the counsel of a family lawyer
 - **Do I still have to pay child support payments if I do not have any parenting time or visitation with the child?** **Yes**. Child support is required whether you are exercising your parenting time or not and for whatever reason. If you have a parenting time dispute with the other party in your case, we suggest that you bring that issue up with the Court of jurisdiction in your case.
 - **If my child is adopted by another person and my rights are terminated am I still required to pay child support?** No, but you should ensure that the **Court terminates your child support at the same time the child is adopted** so that you are no longer responsible for the payments.
 - **What is the 6% rule?** The 6% rule is a method of determining, based on the respective incomes of the parties involved in a case, **the amount of uninsured medical expenses each party is going to pay for the child**. This number is calculated on the same form as the child support amount and can change if your income or the other party's income changes.
 - **If I have an issue with my child support, do I have to have an attorney to get it resolved?** No, **you do not**. There is information available [here](#) to help you.
 - **What if the other party to my case is making more money than what is shown on my child support order?** Child support rules require specific things to be met before child support can be modified. For example, it can only be changed once per 12 months, unless a substantial change in circumstances has occurred. **The Court looks to a change of 20% or more as a substantial change, but other factors can be considered as well**.
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