How Do You Apply For Child Support Services?

Who Do You Contact To Apply For Services?

The Child Support Enforcement Division of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office is part of a federal program, the IV-D [Four-D] Program, which began in 1975 for the purpose of establishing paternity, child support and enforcing support obligations owed by the other parent to their children.

Under federal law, all states are required to have a Child Support Enforcement IV-D Program, which is part of a federal-state-county effort. In Illinois, The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services [HFS] through its Division of Child Support Services is the designated IV-D agency. The Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office works with HFS to provide services to parents or legal guardians.

To apply for child support services, you can call or go online:

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services [HFS] at (800) 447-4278

www.childsupportillinois.com

If your application is approved or additional information is needed, you will be contacted by HFS. Your case will be handled either through an administrative process or a court process. If the court process is used, your case is forwarded to the State’s Attorney’s Office for review and approval of the complaint or petition by an Assistant State’s Attorney. Once approved, your case is processed for filing with the court. The State’s Attorney’s Office is only involved in the court process.

Can You Receive Services If The Other Parent Lives In Another State Or Country?

Yes, there are interstate procedures for cases in which the other parent lives in another state or country.

What Documents May Be Helpful To Your Application and Case:

Information about the other parent (if available):

✓ Current address or last known address
✓ Social security number and date of birth
✓ Name and address of employer
✓ Photograph

Copies of the following documents:

✓ Social Security card for you and your child
✓ Your child’s birth certificate
✓ Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity
✓ Marriage Certificate [if you are not divorced]
✓ Judgment of Dissolution [if you are divorced]
Copies of the following documents (continued):

- Court orders regarding paternity, child support and/or custody
- Orders of Protection
- Administrative orders of paternity and/or child support
- Proof of special medical needs of your child
- List of child support payments received directly from the other parent
- Any other relevant information in your possession

PLEASE BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **THE STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE DOES NOT REPRESENT THE PARENT OR THE LEGAL GUARDIAN, BUT REPRESENTS THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES.**

- **THE STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE DOES NOT HANDLE CUSTODY, VISITATION OR PROPERTY DISTRIBUTION MATTERS.**

- **THE STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE DOES NOT ASSIST IN PURSUING THE COLLECTION OF COLLEGE OR EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES.**

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