

# What Is The Child Support Enforcement Program?

## What Services Does The Child Support Enforcement Program Provide?

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 non-custodial parents 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 custodial parents or legal guardians.



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The Cook County State's Attorney's Office through its Child Support Enforcement Division, in conjunction with HFS, offers the following assistance to custodial parents or legal guardians:

- *Establish paternity*
- *Obtain child support and medical orders*
- *Enforce payments if non-custodial parent/obligor fails to pay*
- *Modify existing orders*
- *Criminally prosecute non-custodial parents who fail to pay child support*

## How Is Child Support Collected Or Enforced?

Child support is collected or enforced in the following ways:

- *By serving a notice on Employers to withhold support from the non-custodial parent's paychecks and to forward the payment to the SDU [State Disbursement Unit]. The non-custodial parent may mail payments directly to the SDU.*
- *By filing pleadings in court requesting the non-paying parent to be held in contempt of court for the willful failure to pay child support – which may result in the non-paying parent facing jail, being subject to electronic home monitoring, or license revocation.*
- *By intercepting Federal and State income tax refunds.*
- *By filing liens on property that prevent the non-custodial parent from selling or transferring property until the child support is paid.*

- *By filing cases in criminal court which may result in a conviction for willful failure to pay child support and for leaving Illinois to avoid paying child support. A conviction may result in the non-paying parent facing jail, the sheriff's work alternative program (SWAP), probation, fine and restitution to the custodial parent or guardian.*

### **Who Is Entitled To Child Support Enforcement Services From The Cook County State's Attorney's Office?**

This program is available to all custodial parents and legal guardians, regardless of a person's income. **A custodial parent or legal guardian does not have to be receiving public assistance in order to be a participant in this program.**

### **Where Are the Courts Located?**

Cases are heard at various locations throughout Cook County:

*Parentage and Child Support  
Daley Center – Room CL24  
50 West Washington, Chicago*

*Post-Dissolution Courtrooms  
Daley Center  
50 West Washington, Chicago*

*Felony Non-Support  
2600 South California, Chicago*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Municipal District Courthouse  
5600 Old Orchard Road, Skokie*

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Municipal District Courthouse  
2121 West Euclid, Rolling Meadows*

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Municipal District Courthouse  
1500 South Maybrook Drive, Maywood*

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Municipal District Courthouse  
10220 South 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bridgeview*

*The 6<sup>th</sup> Municipal District Courthouse  
16501 South Kedzie Parkway, Markham*

## **PLEASE BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- **THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DOES NOT REPRESENT THE CUSTODIAL PARENT OR THE LEGAL GUARDIAN, BUT REPRESENTS THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES.**
- **THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN CRIMINAL NON-SUPPORT CASES, NOT THE CUSTODIAL PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR 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.**

