

Judicial Council of California

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INVITATION TO COMMENT

SPR23-33

Title

Child Support: Implementing Amendments to Family Code Section 4007.5

Proposed Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Revise forms FL-192, FL-490, FL-676, and FL-676-INFO

Proposed by

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee Hon. Stephanie E. Hulsey, Cochair Hon. Amy M. Pellman, Cochair

Action Requested

Review and submit comments by May 12, 2023

Proposed Effective Date January 1, 2024

Contact

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Executive Summary and Origin

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee proposes revising several forms in order to provide court users and the public with updated information regarding relief available to incarcerated or involuntarily institutionalized child support obligors. The proposed revisions are necessary to reflect recent amendments made to Family Code section 4007.5.

Background

Family Code section 4007.5, which provides that, by operation of law, any money judgment or order for child support is automatically suspended for the time period an obligor is confined if they are incarcerated or involuntarily institutionalized for more than 90 consecutive days, was recently amended by Assembly Bill 207 (Stats. 2022, ch. 573). As this legislation was enacted as a budget trailer bill without a delayed implementation date, the amendments were effective on September 27, 2022, the day Governor Newsom signed the bill into law. This section was originally put into place effective July 1, 2011, but was then sunsetted and later reenacted multiple times.

¹ All further statutory references are to the Family Code.

AB 207 made several amendments to section 4007.5, including:

- Removing the January 1, 2023 sunset date;
- Removing the exceptions for relief if a child support obligor was incarcerated or involuntarily institutionalized for failing to pay child support or domestic violence against the other parent or child;
- Expanding relief for child support orders entered or modified before the effective date of the amendments (prior versions only allowed for relief from support orders entered or modified after the law's effective date); and,
- Declaring relief may still be requested from the court if an obligor qualified for relief during the time frame the prior versions of the statute granting relief by operation of law were in effect (i.e., October 8, 2015, to December 31, 2019, and January 1, 2021, to September 26, 2022).

Various Judicial Council forms relating to child support judgments, orders, and arrears have been revised multiple times over the years as section 4007.5 was allowed to sunset twice and was then subsequently reenacted twice.²

The Proposal

To comply with recent amendments to section 4007.5, the committee proposes revising the following forms, so they accurately reflect the current law:

- Notice of Rights and Responsibilities (Health-Care Costs and Reimbursement Procedures) and Information Sheet on Changing a Child Support Order (form FL-192);
- *Application to Determine Arrears* (form FL-490);
- Request for Determination of Support Arrears (form FL-676); and
- *Information Sheet: Request for Determination of Support Arrears* (form FL-676-INFO).

Including relief for prior confinement

These forms were last revised effective January 1, 2022, and when that proposal went out for public comment as part of the invitation to comment process, an issue arose of whether the forms should include information indicating that relief was still available for obligors who qualified for relief while the prior version of the statute was in effect, prior to it sunsetting (October 8, 2015, to December 31, 2019), as obligors were entitled to relief by operation of law.³ While one commenter suggested the forms should include this information, based on the legal analysis conducted and the lack of clarity surrounding this issue, the committee instead recommended that the forms should indicate that relief *may* be available and to allow a mechanism for that relief to be granted. Specifically, at that time the committee recommended that:

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² Family Law: Reenactment of Family Code Section 4007.5 (21-158) can be found at: https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9785555&GUID=9292043B-3626-4778-9FB5-5F961FFE02A4.

 $^{^{3}}$ *Id.* at 6–8.

- Forms FL-192 and FL-676-INFO be revised to include the following language, "If your child support order was entered or modified between October 8, 2015, and December 31, 2019, and you were confined against your will for more than 90 days in a row during the same time frame, you may also qualify for relief," with instructions to talk to the family law facilitator for more information; and,
- Forms FL-490 and FL-676 be revised to include the following language that would allow a way for obligors to request this relief, "The child support order entered on (date):_____ was stopped (suspended) because [] the order says it would stop [] by operation of law...[emphasis added]."

The council approved these recommendations and adopted the revised forms as proposed. However, with the passage of AB 207, this issue has now been resolved by the Legislature by adding the following language to section 4007.5(i):

It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure qualified persons are provided the support suspension by operation of law for qualified periods of incarceration or involuntary institutionalization that existed during the operative terms of the earlier versions of this statute regardless of whether the judicial or administrative determination of arrears is made before or after the repeal of the statute, if the earlier version of the statute provided for the money judgment or order for support to be suspended by operation of law. This subdivision is declarative of existing law.

Consequently, as the Legislature has made it clear that relief can still be requested by an obligor who then qualified for relief under a prior version of the statute where relief was granted by operation of law, these sections of the forms must be revised. Specifically, relief is still available while the last two versions of the statute were in effect during the following time frames (prior to the adoption of AB 207): October 8, 2015, to December 31, 2019, and January 1, 2021, to September 26, 2022.

As stated above, AB 207 removed the exceptions for relief if an obligor was incarcerated for not paying child support or for domestic violence against the other parent or their child. However, this change only applies to obligors requesting relief for incarceration that occurred on or after the effective date of the amendments: September 27, 2022. In other words, these two exceptions to relief would still apply for obligors requesting relief for incarceration that occurred prior to adoption of AB 207 under the prior two versions of the statute.

It is now proposed that forms FL-192 and FL-676-INFO (on the first page of each form) be revised to include information about relief still being available for these two time frames.

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⁴ This proposed language was also responsive to another comment received that relief may be available based on other terms included in a child support judgment or order, as many counties use local forms or attachments that include certain standard orders in cases with local child support agency involvement (e.g., an order stating that child support will automatically be suspended if an obligor starts receiving Supplemental Security Income).

Additionally, it is proposed that forms FL-490 and FL-676 be revised to include two separate check boxes to request relief under section 4007.5: one check box for requesting relief under the current statute and a separate check box for requesting relief under the prior two versions of the statute as shown in the screenshot below:

b. I could not pay child support because				
 After September 26, 2022, I was confined against my wil mental health facility, or other institution (attach proof). 	After September 26, 2022 , I was confined against my will for more than 90 days in a row in jail, prison, juvenile detention, a mental health facility, or other institution (attach proof).			
(a) Start date:	(b) End date:			
(2) I had no money available to pay child support while I was confined.				
c. I could not pay child support because	I could not pay child support because			
(1) Between October 8, 2015, and December 31, 2019, or January 1, 2021, and September 26, 2022, my child support order was entered or modified, and I was confined against my will for more than 90 days in a row in jail, prison, juvenile detention, a mental health facility, or other institution (attach proof).				
(a) Start date:	(b) End date:			
 (2) I had no money available to pay child support while I was confined. (3) I was <u>not</u> confined for (a) Domestic violence against the other parent or our child; or 				
			(b) Failing to pay a child support order.	

Finally, it is proposed that form FL-676 (a governmental child support form) still include the check box shown below, but that the language "by operation of law" be removed. That language was specifically added to allow obligors a way to request their arrears be adjusted if they qualified for relief while the prior version was in effect; it is no longer necessary with the new proposed check box "c" shown above. (The remaining language on form FL-676 would still allow obligors to request relief if their order contains one of the standard orders used in cases with local child support agency involvement referenced in footnote 4 above.)

d. The child support order entered on (date):	was stopped (suspended) because the order says it would
stop (specify the reasons why and attach applicable	e proof):

Alternatives Considered

The committee considered recommending the council wait to revise these four forms as part of a larger forms proposal, as the Legislature is currently discussing adopting additional legislation to bring California into full compliance with the new federal regulations.⁵ However, the committee instead proposes revising the forms described above now to provide updated information to court users—including self-represented litigants—and the public regarding important changes to relief

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Legislation Com. Rep., *Child Support: Additional Legislative Changes Required to Bring California into Compliance with Federal Final Rule* (Oct. 4, 2022) (circulated as CO-22-06), https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/lr-2022-additional-legislative-changes-in-compliance-with-federal-rule-fam-4077.pdf.

available to child support obligors if they become incarcerated or involuntarily institutionalized for longer than 90 days.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The committee anticipates that courts would incur some costs to revise forms and add them to their case management systems, train court staff about the revised forms included in this proposal, and possibly revise local court rules and forms so they are consistent with the changes adopted by the Judicial Council.

Request for Specific Comments

In addition to comments on the proposal as a whole, the advisory committee is interested in comments on the following:

• Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?

The advisory committee also seeks comments from *courts* on the following cost and implementation matters:

- Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.
- What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?
- Would three (3) months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?
- How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?

Attachments and Links

- 1. Forms FL-192, FL-490, FL-676, and FL-676-INFO, at pages 6–12
- 2. Link A: Family Code section 4007.5, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=FAM§ionNum=4007.5

NOTICE OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DRAFT Not approved by Judicial Council

Health-Care Costs and Reimbursement Procedures

If you have a child support order that includes a provision for the reimbursement of a portion of the child's or children's health-care costs and those costs are not paid by insurance, the <u>law says</u>:

- 1. Notice. You must give the other parent an itemized statement of the charges that have been billed for any health-care costs not paid by insurance. You must give this statement to the other parent within a reasonable time, but no more than 30 days after those costs were given to you.
- 2. Proof of full payment. If you have already paid all of the uninsured costs, you must (1) give the other parent proof that you paid them and (2) ask for reimbursement for the other parent's court-ordered share of those costs.
- **3. Proof of partial payment.** If you have paid only your share of the uninsured costs, you must (1) give the other parent proof that you paid your share, (2) ask that the other parent pay his or her share of the costs directly to the health-care provider, and (3) give the other parent the information necessary for that parent to be able to pay the bill.
- 4. Payment by notified parent. If you receive notice from a parent that an uninsured health-care cost has been incurred, you must pay your share of that cost within the time the court orders; or if the court has not specified a period of time, you must make payment (1) within 30 days from the time you were given notice of the amount due, (2) according to any payment schedule set by the health-care provider, (3) according to a schedule agreed to in writing by you and the other parent, or (4) according to a schedule adopted by the court.
- **5. Going to court.** Sometimes parents get into disagreements about health-care costs. If you and the other parent cannot resolve the situation after talking about it, you can request that the court make a decision.
- a. Disputed charges. If you dispute a charge made by the other parent, you may file a request for the court to resolve the dispute, but only if you pay that charge before filing your request.

- b. Nonpayment. If you claim that the other parent has failed to pay you back for a payment, or they have failed to make a payment to the provider after proper notice, you may file a request for the court to resolve the dispute. The court will presume that if uninsured costs have been paid, those costs were reasonable.
- **c. Attorney's fees.** If the court decides one parent has been unreasonable, it can order that parent to pay the other parent's attorney's fees and costs.
- d. Court forms. Use forms <u>FL-300</u> and <u>FL-490</u> to get a court date. See form <u>FL-300-INFO</u> for information about completing, filing, and serving your court papers.
- **6.** Court-ordered insurance coverage. If a parent provides health-care insurance as ordered by the court, that insurance must be used at all times to the extent that it is available for health-care costs.
- a. Burden to prove. The parent claiming that the coverage is inadequate to meet the child's needs has the burden of proving that to the court.
- b. Cost of additional coverage. If a parent purchases health-care insurance in addition to that ordered by the court, that parent must pay all the costs of the additional coverage. In addition, if a parent uses alternative coverage that costs more than the coverage provided by court order, that parent must pay the difference.
- 7. Preferred health providers. If the court-ordered coverage designates a preferred health-care provider, that provider must be used at all times consistent with the terms of the health insurance policy. When any parent uses a health-care provider other than the preferred provider, any health-care costs that would have been paid by the preferred health provider if that provider had been used must be the sole responsibility of the parent incurring those costs.

Information About Child Support for Incarcerated or Detained Parents

- 1. Child support. As of September 27, 2022, child support automatically stops if the parent who has to pay is confined against their will for more than 90 days in a row in jail, prison, juvenile detention, a mental health facility, or other institution.
- **2. Exception.** Child support does not automatically stop if the parent who has to pay has money available to pay child support.
- **3. Timing.** Child support will automatically restart the first day of the first full month after the parent is released. If you need to change your child support order, see page 2.
- **4. Past confinement.** If a child support order was ordered or changed between October 8, 2015, and December 31, 2019, or January 1, 2021, and September 26, 2022, and the parent was confined for more than 90 days in a row during the same time frame, they also qualify for relief.



Additional exceptions for past confinement. Child support would not automatically stop if the parent was in jail or prison for not paying child support or for domestic violence against the other parent or the child.

5. More info. For more information about child support and incarcerated parents, see <u>Family Code section 4007.5</u> or go to https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/child-support/incarcerated-parent.

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NOTICE OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Information Sheet on Changing a Child Support Order

General Info

The court has made a child support order in your case. This order will remain the same unless one of the parents requests that the support be changed (modified). An order for child support can be modified by filing a request to change child support and serving the other parent. If both parents agree on a new child support amount, they can complete, sign, and file with the court a *Stipulation to Establish or Modify Child Support and Order* (form FL-350) (**Note:** If the local child support agency is involved in your case, it must be served with any request to change child support and approve any agreement.)

Online Self-Help Guide

For more information about how child support works, visit: https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/child-support.

When a Child Support Order May Be Changed

The court considers several things when ordering the payment of child support.

- First, the number of children is considered, along with the percentage of time each parent has physical custody of the children.
- Next, the net disposable incomes of both parents are determined (which is how much money is left each month after taxes and certain other items like health insurance, union dues, or other child support ordered and paid are subtracted from a parent's paycheck). The court can also look at earning ability if a parent is not working.
- The court considers both parents' tax filing status and may consider hardships, such as the cost of raising a child of another relationship who lives with a parent.

A parent can request to change an existing order for child support when the net disposable income of one of the parents changes, parenting time changes, or a new child is born.

Examples

- You have been ordered to pay \$500 per month in child support. You lose your job. You will continue to owe \$500 per month, plus 10 percent interest on any unpaid support, unless you file a motion to modify your child support to a lower amount and the court orders a reduction.
- You are currently receiving \$300 per month in child support from the other parent, whose net income has just increased substantially. You will continue to receive \$300 per month unless you file a motion to modify your child support to a higher amount and the court orders an increase.
- You are paying child support based upon having physical custody of your children 30 percent of the time. After several months it turns out that you actually have physical custody of the children 50 percent of the time. You may file a motion to modify child support to a lower amount.

How to Change a Child Support Order

To change a child support order, you must file papers with the court. *Remember:* You must follow the order you have now.

What forms do I need?

If you are asking to change a child support order, you must fill out one of these forms:

- Form FL-300, Request for Order or
- Form FL-390, Notice of Motion and Motion for Simplified Modification of Order for Child, Spousal, or Family Support

You must also fill out one of these forms, and attach proof of income for the past two months (like your paycheck stubs):

- Form FL-150, Income and Expense Declaration or
- Form FL-155, Financial Statement (Simplified)

What if I am not sure which forms to fill out?

Contact the <u>family law facilitator</u> or <u>self-help center</u> in your county.

After you fill out the forms, file them with the court clerk and ask for a hearing date. Write the hearing date on the form. The clerk may ask you to pay a filing fee. If you cannot afford the fee, fill out these forms, too:

- Form FW-001, Request to Waive Court Fees and
- Form FW-003, Order on Court Fee Waiver (Superior Court)

You must serve the other parent. If the local child support agency is involved, serve it too.

- This means someone 18 or over—not you—must serve the other parent copies of your filed court forms at least 16 court days before the hearing. Add 5 calendar days if you serve by mail within California (see Code of Civil Procedure section 1005 for other situations).
- Court days are weekdays when the court is open for business (Monday through Friday except court holidays).
 Calendar days include all days of the month, including weekends and holidays. To find court holidays, go to www.courts.ca.gov/holidays.htm.

The server must also serve blank copies both of these forms:

- Form FL-320, Responsive Declaration to Request for Order
- Form FL-150, Income and Expense Declaration

Then the server fills out and signs a *Proof of Service* (form FL-330) or form FL-335) Take this form, plus one copy, to the clerk and file it at least one week before your hearing.

Go to your hearing and ask the judge to change the support. Bring your tax returns from the last two years and your last two months' pay stubs. The judge will look at your information, listen to both parents, and make an order. After the hearing, fill out:

- Form FL-340, Findings and Order After Hearing and
- Form FL-342, Child Support Information and Order Attachment

Need help?

Contact the <u>family law facilitator</u> or <u>self-help center</u> in your county, or call your county's bar association and ask for an experienced family lawyer.

PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:			
RESPONDENT:				
OTHER PARTY:	DRAFT			
APPLICATION TO DETERMINE ARREARS	Not approved by			
Attachment to Request for Order (form FL-300	the Judicial Council			
·	•			
Child Support Spousal or partner support Family				
Unreimbursed expenses Unreimbursed medical expenses				
1. I ask that the amount of past due support payments (arrears) be decided in this case be				
a. I have already paid some all of the support ordered. Proof of payment is attached.				
b. The children for whom support is to be paid were living with me full time for the period from:				
to: . I provided all of their support during that period explaining these facts and supporting documentation, including any proof that				
c. I could not pay child support because	gg			
(1) After September 26, 2022 , I was confined against my will for more than 90 day	vs in a row in iail prison, invenile detention, a			
mental health facility, or other institution (attach proof).	is in a few in jail, pricert, javorine actention, a			
(a) Start date: (b) End date:				
(2) I had no money available to pay child support while I was confined.				
d. I could not pay child support because				
(1) Between October 8, 2015 , and December 31, 2019 , or January 1, 2021 , and	September 26, 2022, my child support order			
was entered or modified, and I was confined against my will for more than 90 days				
a mental health facility, or other institution (attach proof).				
(a) Start date: (b) End date:				
(2) I had no money available to pay child support while I was confined.				
(3) I was <u>not</u> confined for				
(a) Domestic violence against the other parent or our child; or				
(b) Failing to pay a child support order.				
e. Other (specify):				
2. I have previously asked the other parent for payment and provided the other pare				
	s of all bills being claimed and proof of any			
payments that you have made on these bills.)	Destruction (forms El 450) is attached			
3. I request the other person pay my attorney's fees and costs. My <i>Income and Expe</i>	ense Declaration (form FL-150) is attached.			
4. I have attached <i>(check all that apply):</i>				
a a Declaration of Payment History (form FL-420).				
b a Payment History Attachment (form FL-421).				
c. Other (specify):				
5. Facts in support of the relief requested are (specify):				
contained in the attached declaration.				
declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information	on above is true and correct.			
Date:				
L				
(TYPE OF PRINT NAME)	(SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)			
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME) NOTICE: This form must be attached to Request for Order	, ,			
For help completing this form, talk to the <u>family law facilitator</u> or <u>self-help center</u> in your county.				

NOT A COURT ORDER

P/	NRTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY (name, state bar number, and address):	FOR COURT USE ONLY		
	AME: STATE BAR NO.:			
FI	RM NAME:			
	REET ADDRESS:			
	TY: STATE: ZIP CODE:			
TE	ELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.:			
E-	MAIL ADDRESS:			
Α٦	TORNEY FOR (name):	DRAFT		
CI.	IDEDIOD COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF	Not approved by		
	JPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF IREET ADDRESS:	the Judicial Council		
	ALLING ADDRESS:			
	Y AND ZIP CODE:			
011	BRANCH NAME:			
	DIVANGITIVANIL.			
	PETITIONER:			
RI	ESPONDENT:			
0	THER PARTY:			
		CASE NUMBER:		
	REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF SUPPORT ARREARS			
	INSTRUCTIONS Less this form if you disagree with the lead shild support agapty about how much back	support (arrogra) is awad		
	Use this form if you disagree with the local child support agency about how much back	, , , ,		
• Complete items 4–6. For more information about completing this form, see <i>Information Sheet: Request for Determination of Support Arrear</i> s (form FL-676-INFO).				
•	After you fill out the request and any attachments, take the originals plus three copies t	o the court clerk to file.		
•	 After you file, copies of your court papers must be "served" on the local child support agency and the other party in the case, and you must file a proof of service with the court. See form FL-676-INFO for more information about serving the request. 			
	Make sure you go to the court hearing listed in item 1.			
•	For help completing this form, talk to the <u>family law facilitator</u> in your county.			
NOTICE OF HEARING				
1.	A hearing on this application will be held as follows:			
	a. Date: Time: Dept:	Div: Room:		
	b. The address of the court is same as noted above Other (specify):			
2.	 WARNING to the person served with this request: The court may make the requested orders without you if you do not file a Response to Governmental Notice of Motion or Order to Show Cause (form FL-685) and appear at the hearing. See form FL-676- INFO for more information about filing a response. 			
3.	3. The local child support agency is providing support enforcement services in this case.			
4. a. I did did not request an administrative review of support received by the local child support agency.				
	b. A printout listing support payments received by the local child support agency	is is not attached.		
5.	I ask that the amount of past due support payments (arrears) be adjusted in this case (check all that apply).		
	a. I disagree with how much support the local child support agency says was pa			

PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:		
RESPONDENT:			
OTHER PARTY:			
5. b. I could not pay child support because			
(1) After September 26, 2022, I was confined against my will for more than 90 days in a row in jail, prison, juvenile detention mental health facility, or other institution (attach proof).			
(a) Start date:	(b) End date:		
(2) I had no money available to pay child support while I was cor			
c. I could not pay child support because			
(1) Between October 8, 2015 , and December 31, 2019 , or January 1, 2021 , and September 26, 2022 , my child support ord was entered or modified, and I was confined against my will for more than 90 days in a row in jail, prison, juvenile detention a mental health facility, or other institution (attach proof).			
(a) Start date:	(b) End date:		
(2) I had no money available to pay child support while I was cor	nfined.		
(3) I was <u>not</u> confined for			
(a) Domestic violence against the other parent or our child; o	r		
(b) Failing to pay a child support order.			
d. The child support order entered on (date): stop (specify the reasons why and attach applicable proof):	was stopped (suspended) because the order says it would		
e. Other (specify):			
6. I have attached (check all that apply):			
a a Declaration of Payment History (form FL-420).			
b. a Payment History Attachment (form FL-421).			
c. a printout listing support payments received by the local child support agency.			
d. Other (specify):			
d Outer (speedily).			
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California	a that the foregoing is true and correct		
	a that the loregoing is true and confect.		
Date:			
•			
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	(SIGNATURE)		

This case may be referred to a court commissioner for hearing. By law, court commissioners do not have the authority to issue final orders and judgments in contested cases unless they are acting as temporary judges. The court commissioner in your case will act as a temporary judge unless, *before the hearing*, you or any other party objects to the commissioner's acting as a temporary judge. If you or the other party objects, the court commissioner may still hear your case to make findings and a recommended order to a judge. If you do not like the recommended order, you must object to it within **10 court days** in writing (use *Notice of Objection* (form FL-666)); otherwise, the recommended order will become a final order of the court. If you object to the recommended order, a judge will make a temporary order and set a new hearing.

Information Sheet: Request for Determination of Support Arrears

When do I use form FL-676?

Use this form if the local child support agency is involved in your child support case and you:

- Disagree with how much in back support (arrears) they say is owed; or
- They refused to adjust the back support (arrears) for the time you were in jail, prison, juvenile detention, or a mental health facility for longer than 90 days and couldn't pay support.

Do NOT use form FL-676 to change the order

If you want to change the support order, you need to file a *Request for Order* (form FL-300) and an *Income and Expense Declaration* (form FL-150). See form FL-300-INFO for more information.

How do I get a court date?

Step 1: Fill out the form (in black or blue ink)

• Put your name, address, and contact information at the top of the form. Next, enter the court name and address. Then insert the names of the Petitioner, Respondent, and Other Party, and the case number. (You can find this information on your child support order.)



- 2 Start with item 4 to tell the court why you want the back support (arrears) changed.
 - Item 4(a): Tell the court if you asked for the local child support agency to conduct an administrative review of support payments received.*
 - Item 4(b): Tell the court if you've attached a printout listing payments received by the local child support agency.*
 - (*Note: You can file this request without first asking for an administrative review or attaching a printout from the local child support agency.)
 - Item 5(a): Attach your own support payment history, breaking down how much was owed and how much was paid each month. (You can use forms FL-420 and FL-421 for this purpose.)

- Item 5(b): Tell the court if after **September 26**, **2022**, you were confined against your will for more than 90 days in a row and had no money available to pay child support.
- Item 5(c): Tell the court if between October 8, 2015, and December 31, 2019, or January 1, 2021, and September 26, 2022:
 - (1) your child support order was entered or modified,
- (2) you were confined against your will for more than 90 days in a row during that time frame,
- (3) you had no money available to pay support, and
- (4) you were <u>not</u> confined for not paying child support or domestic violence against the other parent or the child.
- Items 5(b) & (c): List the start and end dates of your confinement and attach proof.
- Item 5(d): Tell the court if the order gives other reasons for stopping (suspending) child support.
- Item 5(e): If the other items don't apply, tell the court why the back support should be adjusted.
- <u>Item 6</u>: Tell the court what paperwork (evidence) you have attached to your request.
- 3 Enter the date, print your name, and sign the form to tell the court that everything in your paperwork is true and correct.

Step 2: Make copies of your court papers

Make three sets of copies of your request, including any attachments, and keep the signed originals.

Step 3: File your request with the court

1 Take your originals, plus the three sets of copies, and file them with the court clerk. Find your court here: www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm



2 The court clerk will fill out item 1 with information about your court hearing date and return the three sets of copies to you with a "filed" stamp in the top right corner.

Tip: Check your <u>local court's website</u> to see if you can file your request electronically (e-file).

3 You will <u>not</u> be charged a fee to file this request.

FL-676-INFO

Information Sheet: Request for Determination of Support Arrears

Step 4: Have someone "serve" your request

- Service is the act of giving your court papers to the local child support agency and the other party in the case. Service can be done in person or by U.S. mail.
- **2** A "server" (someone else 18 years or older) must serve your request. You can <u>not</u> serve your own court papers.
- **3** Give two sets of copies of your request, plus any attachments, to your server.
- **4** There are <u>two</u> options for service:

Option 1

Your server must handdeliver or mail both sets of copies to the local child support agency, which will then send one set to the other party. To do this option, your server must deliver the papers at least 30 days before the court date.

Option 2

Your server must handdeliver or mail one set of copies to the local child support agency and one set to the other party. To do this option, your server must deliver the papers at least 16 court days before the court date. (Add 5 more days if served by mail.)

6 Your server must then complete, sign, and date a *Proof of Service* form to tell the court where and when your request was delivered.

In person: Have your server fill out <u>form FL-330</u>.

By mail: Have your server fill out <u>form FL-335</u>.

6 Double check the *Proof of Service* form to make sure your server correctly completed and signed the form. File the original form, plus one copy, with the court at least one week before your court date.

Go to your court hearing

You must appear at your court hearing or else your request can be denied. Check your local court's website to see if the court is conducting hearings in person or remotely (by videoconference). Complete and file form RA-010 if you want to appear remotely.



2 For information about what to expect at the hearing: <u>www.selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/request-for-order/</u> LCSA/hearing.

How can I get free help?

Every county has a family law facilitator that can:

- Explain the legal process;
- Give you free legal forms; and
- Help you fill out court papers.



Depending on your county, the facilitator may help you in person, online, or by phone. Talk to the <u>facilitator in your county</u> for more information.

Ask for a Disability Accommodation Request



If you have a disability and need an accommodation while you are at court, you can use <u>form MC-410</u> to make your request. For more information, see <u>form MC-410-INFO</u>.

Do you need a court interpreter?

If you don't speak or understand English very well, you may need a court interpreter to help you in court. You can use <u>form INT-300</u> to request an interpreter for your court hearing. Ask the court clerk or <u>family law facilitator in your county</u> for more information.

I got served with a Request for Determination of Support Arrears. Now what?

If you disagree with the requests made by the other party in form FL-676, you need to:

- File and serve your own court papers, at least **9 court** days before the court date; and
- Appear at the court hearing.

To respond to the request, file and serve:

- Response to Governmental Notice of Motion or Order to Show Cause (form FL-685); and
- Your own payment history. (You can use forms FL-420 and FL-421 for this purpose.)

See Step 4 for more information about serving court papers and use Option 2.