

How to file an Answer in a Child Support Case?

Step 1	<p>Complete the following forms in blue or black ink:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FL-610 Answer to Complaint or Supplemental Complaint Regarding Parental Obligations
Step 2	<p>Copies: Make 2 copies, in addition to the original.</p>
<p>Step 3</p> <p>There is no filing fee.</p>	<p>File: Turn in the original and copies of the forms to the Clerk's Office at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">99 Notre Dame Avenue, San Jose, CA 95113 Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm.</p> <p>There is no filing fee for these forms however you may be required to pay a fee if you are filing other forms at the same time or if you owe money for forms you already filed. You can check with the clerk when you file.</p>
Step 4	<p>Service: After the filed copies are returned to you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep a copy for your records ▪ The clerk will keep one copy and serve the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) on your behalf ▪ The Other Party does not have to be served with a copy.
Step 5	<p>Court Hearing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When the DCSS receives your Answer, they will mail you a court date. ▪ Go to your hearing.
NOTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you miss your court hearing, orders may be issued without you being there. ▪ You may contact DCSS at (408) 503-5200 to check on the status of your case.

Please turn over for important information



WHY SHOULD I FILE AN ANSWER?

You should file an answer if:

- 1) You want a paternity test to see if you are the parent of the child or children named in the Complaint
- 2) You agree you are the parent but you do not agree with what is requested in the Complaint (child support amount, health insurance orders, etc).

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T FILE AN ANSWER?

If you DO NOT file an Answer within 30 days of being served, a "default judgment" will be filed against you which will look exactly like the "proposed judgment" in the packet you were given. You will have to pay the amount or orders requested and made at the day of the hearing regardless of your appearance.

HOW CAN I GET THE FORMS?

There are a few ways that you can get the forms:

- hire an attorney;
- contact a Legal Services Agency such as Legal Aid or Pro Bono Project
- get the forms online at the state's website, (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp);
- use a self-help legal book or
- visit the Self-Help Center/Family Law Facilitator's Office in person, Monday through Thursday, starting at 8:30 am. Please go to www.scscourt.org (and click on the self-help section of the site) for details on how to sign up for help at our office. **Please note: we cannot help people who have attorneys.**

Self-Help Center/Family Law Facilitator's Office
Superior Court, County of Santa Clara
99 Notre Dame Avenue, San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 882-2926

www.scscourt.org
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State of California Courts Self-Help