

Teen|LA

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

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C H I L D S U P P O R T

How do I get **child support**?

There are a couple of different ways to get child support:

1. Make an **informal agreement** with the other parent.
2. Open a case with **LA County Department of Child Support Services**.
3. Go to **Family Court** and ask the Court to make the other parent pay support.

My baby's dad doesn't have the **right to visit** unless he pays child support, right?

Wrong. The responsibility to pay support and the right to visit are different. Visits should not stop just because the other parent stops paying support.

How does the court figure out **how much** support should be?

The court looks at **three things**: (1) the mother's income, (2) the father's income, and (3) the amount of time the child spends with each parent.

Does the court **always give child support**?

No. If the other parent is under 18 or has a good reason for not having a job, the court may not make them pay support.

What if my baby's dad is **paid cash**?

If you know the other parent gets paid in cash, you should tell the judge how you know this and you should bring whatever evidence you have to prove that he is working.

What do I do if my baby's dad **doesn't pay** after the court makes an order?

You can ask the court to tell his job to take the money out of his paycheck. You can also ask the County to help you take away his drivers' license and other things.

Will getting child support **affect my welfare** benefits?

Yes. If you apply for welfare, the County will start its own child support case against the other parent (even if you don't ask them to). While you are on welfare, the County will keep any child support they get. If you get child support directly from the other parent, you have to report it to your worker.

I'm the **DAD** and I have some questions....

Does **my baby's mom have to pay** me support if the baby lives with me?

Maybe - Dads have the **same right** to get child support that moms do.

I buy diapers and stuff when my baby visits with me. **Can I deduct what I spend from what I pay in child support?**

No! When your baby is with you, you are responsible for paying for anything the baby needs. You cannot deduct what you spend from what you are ordered to pay in support.

My baby's mom **has to spend** the child support on **things for the baby**, right?

Wrong. Your baby's mother gets to decide on her own what she wants to use the child support money for. If you don't think she is taking good care of your baby though, you may want to go to court and ask for the baby to live with you.

Want to speak with a lawyer?

Contact Teen/LA at (323) 980-3500

Who we serve:

People ages 13-24 living in Los Angeles County

What we do:

Answer your legal questions, help you with paperwork, even represent you in Court.

All of our services are **free** for those who qualify.

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