# California Courts Self-Help Center

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/

## MAIN FACTORS USED IN CALCULATING CHILD SUPPORT

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Number of minor children of this relationship (until age 18 and graduated from high school if self-supporting, or until age 19 while still in high school).

#### TIME SHARE PERCENTAGE

Approximate percentage of time that each parent has primary physical responsibility for each minor child of this relationship.

## **GROSS INCOME**

Commissions, salaries, royalties, wages, bonuses, rents, dividends, pensions, interest, trust income, annuities, workers' compensation benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, disability insurance benefits, social security benefits, domestic partner support and spousal support actually received from a nonparty. The court may, in its discretion, consider the earning capacity of a parent in lieu of the parent's income in the best interest of the children.

# **TAX LIABILITY**

Tax filing status: single, married, married filing separately, head of household; number of dependents claimed by each parent; and all available exclusions, deductions, and credits.

#### **DEDUCTIONS**

FICA; mandatory union dues; mandatory retirement benefits; health insurance or health plan premiums for the parent and any children the parent has an obligation to support; SDI; any child, spousal, or partner support actually paid by the parent pursuant to court order, or proven child, spousal, or partner support payment; and proven necessary job related expenses.

# ADDITIONAL CHILD SUPPORT

Additional child support may be divided one-half to each parent or prorated. The court will **require** additional child support for child-care costs related to employment or to reasonably necessary education or training for employment skills, and reasonable uninsured health-care costs for the children. The court **may** include additional child support for costs related to educational or other special needs of the children, or travel expenses for visitation.

## FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS

Circumstances evidencing hardship include extraordinary health expenses for which the parent is financially responsible, and uninsured catastrophic losses; minimum basic living expenses of parent's natural or adopted children from other relationships who reside with the parent.