

Can I change my child support order?

Maybe. If a court ordered you to pay child support, or if you are getting child support for your child, you can ask the court to change the amount of child support in the order.

How does the court decide how much child support to order?

The court uses a child support worksheet and standard state guidelines to figure out how much child support to order. The amount of child support is based on the parents' incomes and the costs of taking care of your child. A parent whose only income is SSI cannot be forced to pay support. The following website can help you estimate the amount of child support that should be ordered in your case:
www.indygov.org/cgibin/courts/support.t.cgi

How do I change my child support order?

The Child Support Division of your local county prosecutor's office should help you change your child support order if there is a reason to change it. This service is free if you receive Title IV-D services. Otherwise, there is a one-time \$25.00 fee. The Child Support Division should help you with these child support issues, whether or not you receive welfare benefits. That office can also

help you get your child support if the other parent is not paying. You can also hire a private attorney or file a petition to change child support on your own.

When will the court change my child support order?

When things change so much that the current amount of child support is unreasonable

- ◆ This might happen if:
 - A parent loses a job.
 - A parent gets a new job and makes a lot more money than he or she did before.
 - There is a change in custody of the child.
 - The child becomes disabled or needs a lot of medical care.
 - The child goes to college.
- ◆ When the amount of child support that the court ordered before is 20% more or less than it would be if the court ordered it today, and it has been more than one year since the court's last child support order.

Can any court change my child support order?

No. You should go to the court that ordered child support in the first place to change the child support order.

What if I just moved to Indiana and the court that ordered the child support is in another state?

You can register the other state's child support order with the Indiana court in your county. Once you register the out-of-state order, you can ask the Indiana court to change the order. Again, your local county prosecutor's office should help you with registering, changing, or enforcing an out-of-state order.

However, the Indiana court can change the order only in certain situations, such as if you, the child, and the other parent all live or used to live in Indiana. If the support orders needs to be changed in another state or county, your local county prosecutor's office may be able to work with the prosecutor's office in that other state or county.

Do I have to go to a court hearing to change my child support order?

If you and the other parent agree to change the child support order, you may not have to go to court for a hearing.

Even if you and the other parent agree on the change, you still have to ask for the court's approval. To do this, you need to file a paper asking the court to approve the agreed change in child support.

If you and the other parent can't agree on the change, then you will have to go to a court hearing.

What happens if I stop paying all or part of my child support without asking the court first?

The court could find you in contempt of court. The court could order your employer to take part of your paycheck to pay for the child support. You also could lose your driver's license or other professional license, your tax refunds could be taken, a lien could be placed against your car or your home, and you could be reported to a credit bureau. The court could order you to jail.

Remember:

- ◆ If you can't pay support because of illness or unemployment, ask the court to change the amount of support. If you don't, your support debt will keep.
- ◆ Always pay support the clerk's office as ordered by the court; otherwise, you may not get credit for all your payments.

- ◆ If the child comes to live with you, go to court to get your child support changed. If you don't, you may still have to pay child support.
- ◆ Even if you think the child should not get support anymore (because the child is too old or living on her own), you should not stop paying support until the court gives its approval.

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Columbus: (812) 372-6918 1-866-644-6407	Indianapolis: (317) 631-9410 1-800-869-0212
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Information Available on the web
www.indianajustice.org