

The Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Program is a federal/state/local effort in the United States to: 1) locate parents, employers, and/or assets; 2) establish paternity, if necessary; and 3) establish and enforce child support orders. State and local CSE offices operate the program from day to day. The federal role is to provide funding, issue policies, ensure that federal requirements are met, and interact with other federal agencies that help support the CSE program.

How and Where to Apply

In most states, CSE offices are listed under the Human Services agency in the local government section of the telephone directory. If there is not a separate listing, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css>. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage. Click on Find Local Child Support Office. State CSE agencies addresses and numbers are listed on this website by letting the mouse hover over the state or clicking the state.

Call your Child Support Enforcement Office to learn how to apply for enforcement services and what documents (birth certificates, financial statements, etc.) you need to provide.

How to Collect/Enforce Child Support

The first step, if a child was born out of wedlock, is to establish paternity - or make a legal determination of who is the father of the child. This can be done voluntarily or by either parent requesting a blood test. Your caseworker will help you to establish paternity for your child.

Establishing the obligation is the next step. The fair amount of child support that the non-custodial parent should pay is determined according to state guidelines. Your CSE office will be able to tell you how support award

amounts are set in your state. Your CSE office can also request medical support for your child.

The last step is enforcement of the child support order. The CSE office can help collect the money due no matter where the non-custodial parent lives.

At any of these steps, the CSE office may need to know where the non-custodial parent is living or where he/she is working. When a parent has disappeared, it may be possible for the CSE office to find him/her with the help of state agencies such as the Department of Motor Vehicles or the Federal Parent Locator Service. Your caseworker can tell you what information is needed to find an absent parent or his/her employer.

The most successful way to collect child support is by direct withholding from the obligated parent's paycheck. Most child support orders require the employer to withhold the money that is ordered for child support and send it to the CSE office. Your Child Support Enforcement office can tell you about this procedure.

Federal and State income tax refunds may be withheld to collect unpaid child support. States also have laws which allow them to use liens on personal property, orders to withhold and deliver property, or seizure and sale of property with the proceeds applied to the support debt. Many states routinely report child support debts to credit bureaus, and many parents are bringing their payments current so that their credit won't be affected.

The most helpful resource for learning about child support is the Handbook on Child Support Enforcement published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

State Resources

For more information on your individual state, please call your State Child Support Enforcement Office.

Enforcement against a Military Member

Military members must provide adequate financial support for their dependents. There are two ways to enforce child support – garnishment or involuntary allotment. To enforce a child support garnishment order on a military member, take the court order to your local DFAS office. DFAS will notify the member that there has been a garnishment order processed against them, at which time they have to submit any paperwork to contest the garnishment or show they have otherwise satisfied any money owed.

An involuntary allotment may be started when there is a court order requiring child support (may be part of the divorce decree) and the member is behind on at least two months of child support payments. Your local DFAS office can initiate an involuntary allotment when they receive notice of a deficiency by an authorized agency or court.

This handout is for basic information on topic covered as it relates to military personnel stationed in the United Kingdom. It is not intended to take the place of legal advice from a Judge Advocate. There may be important exceptions in some states to the information presented here. Please contact the Legal Office for questions and further information. You may view more information on various legal topics at the Air Force Legal Assistance website found at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>. Additionally, complete legal worksheets for Wills, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney (General, Special, and for Health Care), and access to the Online Survey are found on the Air Force Legal Assistance website.

Scan Below to Access the:

RAF Mildenhall Legal Office Website
www.mildenhall.af.mil/Info/Legal-Office



Legal Assistance Website
<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>



Legal Assistance Information Series **CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT**



Hours of Operation (Walk-ins)
Notary Public & Powers of Attorney
Monday – Friday: 800-1630 hrs

Legal Assistance
By Appointment Only

100 ARW/JA
APO AE 09459
DSN 314-238-2028
COMM (0)1638-54-2028
E-mail: 100ARW.JAV3@mildenhall.af.mil

Scan Below to Access Our Website
www.mildenhall.af.mil/Info/Legal-Office

