

## Vocabulary

**Custodial Parent (CP)**– the custodian of the dependent child(ren) to whom support is owed

**Non-Custodial Parent (NCP)**– the person with the legal duty to pay support to the CP

**Court Order**– a legally binding decision issued by a court of law

**IV-D Case**– the CP receives child support services offered by state and local agencies

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)**– refers to a IV-D case where time-limited public assistance payments are provided to needy families

**Non-TANF**– refers to a IV-D case where the CP is **not** receiving Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF)

**Support Order**– a court-issued order for the support and maintenance of a child including current support, medical insurance coverage, and arrears payments

**Age of Emancipation**– the age when a child is legally considered to be an adult in District of Columbia is 21

**Arrearage**– refers to past due, unpaid child support owed by the NCP

**Parentage**–the legal determination of fatherhood



In an effort to strengthen community awareness and involvement, CSSD offers a myriad of services such as:

- Community Outreach Winnebago
- Fresh Start Program
- Electronic Payments include Visa Debit Card or Direct Deposit
- Online Case Look-up
- Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program
- Incarcerated Parent Modification

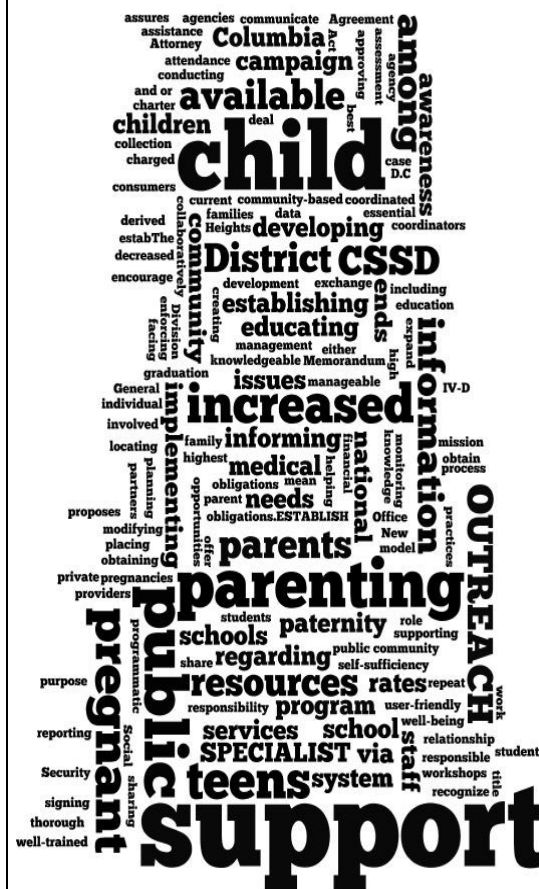
For more information,

contact CSSD at

(202) 442-9900



## The ABC's of Child Support Services Division (CSSD)



441 4th Street, NW

Suite 550 North

Washington, DC 20001

(Judiciary Square Metro)

Customer Service Line: 202-442-9900

Fax Number: 202-724-3710

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday  
8:15am - 4:45pm

Website: [www.cssd.dc.gov](http://www.cssd.dc.gov)

## **What is the mission statement of The Office of Attorney General/Child Support Service Division?**

To enhance the well-being of children by assuring that assistance in obtaining support, *including financial and medical* is available to children through **locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing support obligations, and monitoring and enforcing those obligations.**

## **Why is it important for a parent to know the services provided by CSSD ?**

Child support education is important because, when the relationship between a child's parents ends, it does not mean that either parent's responsibility for that child ends. Both parents remain financially and legally obligated to a child no matter whether the parents remain together or not.

## **How can CSSD assist establishment of paternity?**

If you are an unmarried parent, CSSD can assist you in legally establishing paternity for your child.

## **What is an Acknowledgment of Paternity?**

An Acknowledgment of Paternity (**AOP**) is a legal document that is signed by both the biological mother and biological father that establishes the child's father without the need to go to court.

## **Why is it important to establish paternity for your child?**

- Father's name on your child's birth certificate
- Identity
- Information about family medical history
- Inheritance rights
- Military benefits
- Life insurance
- Medical health insurance
- Worker's compensation benefits
- Social Security from a deceased or disabled person



## **How is Parentage/Paternity established in District of Columbia?**

- Birth of child during a marriage– legal paternity is established when a child is born to parents who are legally married
- Domestic Partnership– refers to an opposite sex or same sex couple who registers as domestic partners
- Artificial Insemination (AI)– a procedure for achieving pregnancy that involves direct insertion of semen into a woman's womb
- Genetic Testing– a test involving cheek swab samples to obtain DNA cells from the alleged father and the child to determine the child's biological father
- Adjudication of Paternity– a court judgment that constitutes establishment of parentage
- Foreign Judgment– legal establishment of paternity by another jurisdiction

## **What is the Child Support \$150 Pass-Through? Who does the Pass-Through apply to?**

The \$150 Pass-Through provides additional income to IV-D customers who receive TANF benefits with an established child support order.

## **How does the Pass-Through Work?**

Up to \$150 of a non-custodial parent's (NCP) child support payment will "pass-through" directly to the custodial parent (CP).

- ⇒ The exact amount you may receive may vary based on the amount that the NCP pays.
- ⇒ This incentive is per case meaning based on each individual case not the number of children involved.
- ⇒ You will receive your Pass-Through once CSSD has received the payment from the NCP.

## **How to modify a Child Support Order?**

Every three 3 years, either parent may ask CSSD to schedule a Review and Adjustment Conference.

Alternatively, a request for modification of a child support order may be filed by any parent if there has been a substantial and material change in the NCP's ability to pay or in the needs of the child (ren).

## **What is Medical Support?**

Medical insurance coverage provided for a child(ren) established in an order.

## **What is the Enforcement Process?**

CSSD may use administrative and judicial enforcement tools to collect arrears (past due payments owed by the NCP).

## **What is the District of Columbia Child Support Guideline?**

A standard method for setting child support obligations based on the income of both parents and other determined factors.



## **How can Domestic Violence Victims obtain Child Support?**

If you are a victim of domestic violence you are still entitled to child support. The case may be referred by the Domestic Violence Intake Center or a Family Services Agency. For information contact:

### The Domestic Violence Intake Center

D.C. Superior Court  
 500 Indiana Avenue, NW  
 Room 4235  
 Washington, DC 20001  
 (202) 879-0152