



Supporting California's Children

# Child Support: When Parents Live in Different States



## What other services are available?

- Locate a parent.
- Establish paternity.
- Establish, modify, and enforce a court order for child support.
- Establish, modify, and enforce an order for health insurance coverage.

Contact a local child support agency:

**866-901-3212 toll-free**

(within the U.S.)

**TTY 866-399-4096**

## Important Points!

- Laws are different from state to state.
- Not all foreign jurisdictions have agreements to establish and enforce child support orders from the United States.
- The local child support agency may have to do things differently for out-of-state, active duty military personnel. However, child support can still be collected by the Department of Child Support Services.



*Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor  
State of California*

*Diana S. Dooley, Secretary  
California Health and Human Services Agency*

*Alisha Griffin, Director  
California Department of Child Support Services*

1-866-901-3212 (toll-free)  
TTY 1-866-399-4096 (toll-free)  
[www.childsup.ca.gov](http://www.childsup.ca.gov)

*The California Department of Child Support  
Services does not provide legal services to  
parents or guardians.*

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Department of  
Child Support Services

When parents or guardians live in different states or countries, a child support case can be opened at the local child support agency where one of the parents or guardians live. The local child support agency will either establish and enforce the child support order or ask the other state or country for help.

### What is the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act?

The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act is a law that tells us how to make and enforce child support obligations when the parties do not live in the same state or country. Federal law requires states to cooperate with each other to establish and enforce child support orders.

### What if I do not have a child support order?

The local child support agency will work with the other state to get an order or ask the other state to enforce the order, if needed.



### What if I already have a child support order?

Bring the order to your local child support agency and it can work with the other state to enforce an order, if needed.

### Which state decides the child support amount?

If you do not have an order, the law requires your local child support agency to determine which state sets the child support amount based on your case.

### Can my child support order be changed?

Yes. Your case can be reviewed at the request of either party or the local child support agency. In California, the child support amount can go up or down based on many factors, but mainly the income of both parents and the amount of time each spends with the child(ren).



### Will I have to go to the other state?

No, the local child support agency will handle the case for you, but you may be asked to be available by telephone for court hearings.

### Are child support laws the same in every state?

Laws regarding support can vary from state to state. The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act helps states work together.

### I have an order from one state, but neither of us live in that state. Is this still a good order?

Yes, the local child support agency handling your case will enforce the most recent order, no matter where the parties live.

### Can I make sure the other parent or caretaker won't have access to my home address and other personal information?

Yes. If you are concerned about the release of personal information, discuss this with your local child support agency to review your options.

