

*Making A
Difference In
Children's Lives*



CHILD SUPPORT

HEAD START

CHILD CARE

We're Working Together To Put Children First!

**“Many Head Start
single parents and
their children will be
strengthened by the
child support services
they receive.”**

*Judge David Gray Ross
Commissioner
The Office of Child Support
Enforcement*



You want the best for your children and so do we; that's why Illinois' Child Support Enforcement Program (CSE), Head Start, and Child Care agencies are working together to keep kids healthy and happy.

Head Start and Child Care agencies offer many learning experiences to children. These agencies help parents learn about the needs of their children and about educational activities that can be carried out at home.

In addition to providing your children quality preschool education, Head Start and child care staff refer you to important community programs such as child support services including paternity acknowledgment for unmarried parents.

How are Head Starts and Child Care Agencies working together with the Illinois Child Support Enforcement Program?

We are working together to provide parents with information on paternity acknowledgment and other child support services.

Child support staff are also learning about the services of Head Start and Child Care agencies to refer their clients with young children to these agencies.

What is paternity acknowledgment and why is it important for my child?

Acknowledging paternity means giving the child or children of unmarried parents a legal dad. Parents who were married to each other when their child was born do not have to establish paternity because the law considers the husband the child's legal father.

We all know how important it is for fathers to have an active role in their children's lives. Kids with legal dads get emotional and financial benefits. Only after paternity is acknowledged can the father's name be placed on the birth certificate. Your child may receive the father's medical insurance benefits; Social Security or retirement benefits; veteran's and survivors' benefits; or life insurance. Your child can also receive important information on his father's medical history.

And, acknowledging paternity is the first step in collecting child support.

"I love my mom and dad because on holidays they give me hugs and kisses. I love them because they are special to me."

Do I have to go to court to secure paternity for my children?

No, if both parents agree to sign the Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity form. You can pick up and complete paternity forms at many locations such as Local Registrars and County Clerks offices, Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) Offices, Child Support Offices, and some WIC and Head Start sites. The form is free, and signing the form gives your child emotional and financial rights. You can acknowledge paternity for any child up to 21 years.

We can help you:

- locate an absent parent
- secure or modify an order for child support and health insurance
- collect child support payments
- collect child support from someone living in another state

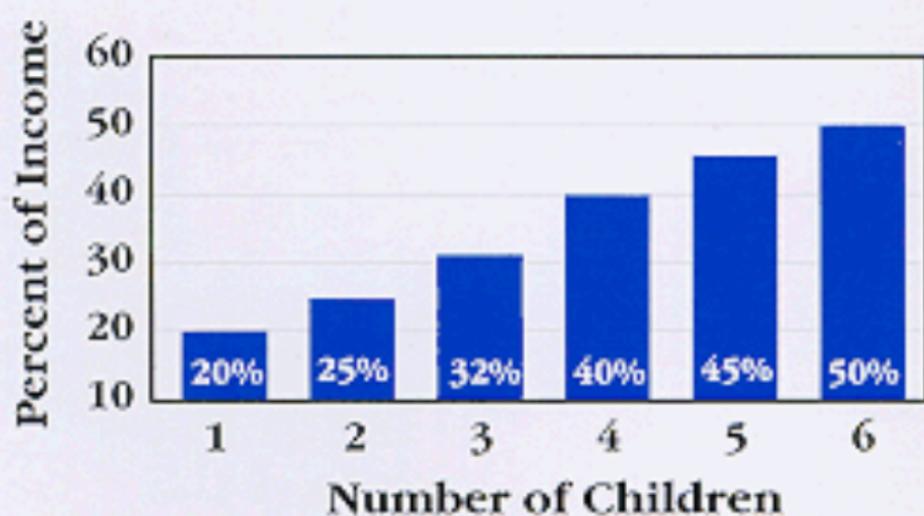
I'm divorced, and I don't receive public assistance. Can CSE help me collect child support?

Child support services are available to all single parents (and parents who are still married but separated) regardless of income levels. A one-time fee of up to \$25 may be charged for applying for services.

NOTE: If you are receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), you are already receiving child support services. If you have questions about your child support case, ask your DHS caseworker or contact one of the offices listed on the back of this brochure.

How much child support can I get?

Illinois law helps set the amount of child support CSE can collect from the non-custodial parent (NCP), the parent who does not live with the child. The percentage collected is based on the parent's net income. (Total income minus taxes, rent and other allowed deductions.)



What can I do to help my case move through the system?

Provide as much information as possible, especially on your first few visits. Bring copies of your child's birth certificate, completed Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity form, your marriage license or divorce or separation decree. Be sure to provide social security numbers for you and your children.

Keep all appointments and answer all letters asking for information so your case doesn't get put "on hold."

The more information you can provide about the NCP, usually the father, the better. Provide his first, middle, and last name; date and place

of birth; last known employer (address and phone number); military service information; and driver's license number and social security number.

"I love my family that is why I will make a poem. My mother is a rose, My father is a carnation and I am a bud recently born."

Let us know if the NCP changes jobs, is collecting unemployment or disability benefits, or purchasing a new car or home. You can contact the Child Support office in your area to report a delinquent parent.

I'm a dad.

Where can I go for help?

The Non-Custodial Parent Services Unit of the Illinois Department of Public Aid's Division of Child Support Enforcement Program offers dads a father-friendly place to go for help.

Call or write:

NCP Services Unit

32 W. Randolph, Room 1200
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 793-7987

NCP/Earnfare Liaison

DCSE Regional Office
27 E. Main
Belleville, IL 62220
(618) 277-3310

Who do I contact if I want to start a case or if I have questions about an existing case?

Call or write:

Aurora Office
280 E. Indian Trail,
Aurora, IL 60505
(877) 593-5554

Belleville Office
27 E. Main Street,
Belleville, IL 62220
(877) 455-1314

Champaign Office
313 N. Mattis,
Champaign, IL 61821
(877) 265-7481

Cook County Operations
32 W. Randolph,
Chicago, IL 60601
(800) 374-3346

Marion Office
104 Airway Drive,
Marion, IL 62959
(877) 869-3359

Peoria Office
2011 N. Knoxville Ave.,
Peoria, IL 61603
(877) 409-2663

Rockford Office
1114 Taylor St.,
Rockford, IL 61101
(877) 455-1315

Springfield Office
110 W. Lawrence St.,
Springfield, IL 62704
(877) 225-7077

Internet address:
www.state.il.us/dpa/

E-mail:
dpa_webmaster@state.il.us

Who do I contact for Child Care/ Head Start information?

**Illinois Network of
Child Care Resource
and Referral Agencies**
(877) 202-4453

**Illinois Department
of Human Services
Child Care Hotline**
(877) 202-4453

**Illinois Head Start
Association**
P.O. Box 5208
Chicago, Illinois
60680-5208
(312) 409-1299
FAX (312) 791-1774



Illinois Department of Public Aid

Division of Child Support Enforcement