

# General Information

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM



Sherri Bevan Walsh  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Summit County, Ohio

## Special Points of Interest:

The purpose of the Child Support Program is to provide children with the opportunity for a better life. By working with both parents to establish and enforce support orders, the Child Support Program helps children receive the financial and medical support ordered for them.

Ohio's Child Support Program touches more children than any other program in Ohio, except education.

Formed on January 1, 1988, CSEA is a federal, state, and local partnership empowered by the Social Security Act to locate parents, determine paternity, establish support obligations, and collect child support.

The Ohio CSEA Directors' Association is a professional organization dedicated to strengthening Ohio's Child Support Program.

## Why is child support important?

Child support is important to a child's healthy development. Child support makes a real difference in managing food, shelter, clothing, medical, and dental expenses. In addition, some researchers have found a correlation between consistent child support and improved school attendance, higher grade point averages, and reduced behavioral problems. Children need the emotional and financial support of both parents.

During the State Fiscal Year 2008.....

- Statewide collections in Ohio reached \$2.02 Billion.
- 61,016 paternities were established.
- The total caseload reached 1,022,967.
- Ohio's child support program consistently ranks as one of the leading programs in the nation.
- For Federal Fiscal Year 2008: \$1,367,072,351.11 IV-D collections distributed as Current Support
- CSPC processed 13.1 million payments and disbursed over \$2 billion in support to children and families.
- County agencies received state and national recognition for enforcement programs, public education and outreach effort, and excellence in customer service.

## What services are available at the CSEA?

The Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) assists parents by providing the following services:

- Establishment of paternity
- Location of absent parents
- Establishment of a child support or medical support order
- Modification of child support orders
- Enforcement of existing child support or medical support orders
- Collection and disbursement of payments
- Education and outreach about the child support program and appropriate referrals for community and government services

## What are some methods of collecting child support?

### Administrative Tools

- Income or Wage Withholding
- Federal and State Tax Offset
- Financial Institution Data Match
- Professional and Driver License Suspensions
- Credit Bureau Reporting
- Orders on Arrears

### Judicial Enforcement Tools

- Contempt
- Misdemeanor Criminal Non-Support
- Felony Non-Support
- Liens, Attachments, Executions
- Lump Sum Actions

There are both administrative and judicial enforcement tools available to CSEA staff. Agency attorneys and staff initiate and conduct the above referenced actions. In addition, CSEA attorneys have the responsibility to review cases for litigation, recommend appropriate legal proceedings, conduct pre-trial negotiation and collection activities, and finalize proceedings and appropriate court orders. The CSEA attorney represents the State of Ohio. No attorney-client relationship exists between the attorney and any individual party.

## What CSEA does not do:

The functions of the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) are establishing parentage and support orders, enforcing support orders, modifying and/or terminating support orders, and collecting/dispersing support. We are governed by the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code, which outline the limitations of CSEA. Although CSEA handles most issues associated with your support case, we do not handle all issues that may arise. Below you will find a list of things that CSEA does **NOT** handle.

### CSEA does **NOT**:

- ▶ Deal directly with issues of visitation and/or custody.
- ▶ Offer and/or dispense legal advice. This should be handled by a private attorney or by contacting Juvenile or Domestic Court directly.
- ▶ Provide representation for the Obligor or Obligees at court hearings. Although CSEA will have prosecutors present at court hearings, he/she represents CSEA, NOT the individual Obligor or Obligees.
- ▶ Provide copies of journal entries for Domestic or Juvenile Court Orders.
- ▶ Dictate or verify how support is spent (i.e. rent, utilities, food, clothing, etc.).
- ▶ Use a current spouse's income to determine support obligation(s). An Obligor's and/or Obligees' current spouse's income cannot be used when determining the support obligation.
- ▶ Discuss a case with a third party without receiving prior written consent of the Obligor or Obligees.

If you need information about your case or services available, contact your CSEA support specialist.

#### ADDRESS

P.O. Box 80598  
175 S. Main St.  
Akron, OH 44308

#### PHONE

(330) 643-2765  
(800) 726-2765

#### FAX

(330) 643-2745

#### HOURS

8:00am – 4:30pm  
Monday-Friday

#### WEBSITE

[www.co.summit.oh.us/  
prosecutor/childsupp.htm](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/childsupp.htm)

---

*Children deserve the  
opportunity for a  
better life.*

---

## What are SETS toll-free numbers and what information can be accessed?

For all Ohio cases, a toll-free number enables parents to access payment information, check on electronic funds transfer information, and obtain county agency addresses and phone information. Updated daily, the SETS line can be accessed by calling: 1-800-860-2555 or 1-800-860-0019 (TTD).

The SETS line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The SETS line is a reliable source for payment information.

## Where should payments be sent?

All child support payments are processed at a centralized processing center in Columbus. The following addresses should be used when submitting payments by check or money order:

#### Individual Obligor Payments

Ohio Child Support Payment Central  
P.O. Box 182372  
Columbus, OH 43218-2372

#### Employer Payments

Ohio Child Support Payment Central  
P.O. Box 182394  
Columbus, OH 43218-2394

#### Recoupment Payments

Ohio Child Support Payment Central  
P.O. Box 182380  
Columbus, OH 43218-2380