

Child Support Services Program OVERVIEW



Website: www.azdes.gov/dcss/
Contact Us: 1.800.882.4151 or 602.252.4045

The Arizona Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) is within the Department of Economic Security (DES) and is responsible for the administration of the Arizona Title IV-D child support program. The DCSS provides the following services:

- **Locate:** Finding either parent
- **Paternity:** Establishing legal fatherhood for the child
- **Order Establishment:** Obtaining a legal child support order
- **Enforcement:** Collecting child support payments
- **Medical Support:** Establishing and enforcing medical support
- **Modifications of support orders:** Modifying the amount of child support available to either parent
- **Personal Development Incentives:** GED/high school diploma and hardship programs available

The DCSS provides services to anyone who applies for assistance. The DCSS works in cooperation with other states' child support agencies in providing child support services when parents or guardians live in different states. Individuals currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), federally assisted foster care or medical assistance automatically receive child support services. Persons not receiving any state/federal assistance may receive child support services by submitting an application. The application process is free. Once a case is open, some fees may apply which are explained below.



- **Annual Collections Fee** - Under federal law, the DCSS is required to charge a yearly \$35 service fee on cases where the custodial parent has never received public assistance and has received \$550 of support within the federal fiscal year (October 1- September 30).



You may be charged more than one fee each year if you have more than one applicable case.

- **Clearinghouse Fee** - There is a \$5.00 payment processing fee on cases with an Arizona support order. The parent ordered to pay support is responsible for the fee.
- **Genetic Testing Fees** - Genetic testing may be requested to identify the biological father in order to establish paternity. The DCSS advances the cost of genetic testing. If the biological father is identified through genetic testing; he is responsible for repaying the cost.

The DCSS has the following programs in place to improve the delivery process of child support services:

- **Voluntary Paternity Program / Hospital Paternity Program (HPP)**
The HPP works directly with hospitals statewide to aid in establishing voluntary paternity at the time of birth. The mother and father sign and complete a simple one-page form provided to them by birth recorders in the hospital.
- **Modification Workshops**
The workshops are available to parents seeking to change the amount of support due to economic factors such as changes in income.
- **Settlement Program**
Settlement Programs are available to non-custodial parents delinquent in support payments who would like to discuss a possible settlement of arrearages.

Equal Opportunity Employer / Program • Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities
• To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact the Division of Child Support Services at 602-252-4045; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1 • Disponible en español en línea o en la oficina local.

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