

Child Support Services Program OVERVIEW



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

The Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) is a state agency within the Department of Economic Security (DES), and is responsible for the administration of the Arizona Title IV-D Child Support Services 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
- **Educational Seminars:** Free presentations open to the public

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** - Every state is required to charge a \$25.00 annual fee for child support cases that receive collections over \$500 annually. The fee applies to cases where the custodial

parent has never received public assistance and to each case if the parent has more than one 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.



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