

# JUSTIA

## Child Support Laws and Forms: 50-State Survey

Raising a child can bring great joy to parents, but it also comes with great responsibilities. One of these responsibilities involves providing financial support to the child until they become an adult. Each state has established rules to ensure that a child will not lose access to the support that they need if their parents part ways. These **child support** guidelines cover issues such as the types of income that may serve as sources of support, the formula used to calculate support, and the age at which the child support obligation ends. However, a court has discretion to deviate from the guidelines in certain circumstances.

While each state has issued its own guidelines, there are three main approaches to **calculating child support** in the United States. All but nine states follow an approach known as the income shares model. This approach is based on the idea that a child should receive the same amount of support as they would if their parents had stayed together. In other words, parents in an intact household likely would allocate a certain percentage of their income to advancing a child's wellbeing. The income shares model aims to roughly

approximate that percentage.

Six of the other nine states follow an approach known as the percentage of income model. This approach accounts for only the income of the paying parent, often called the non-custodial parent. The percentage of income model does not consider the income of the recipient parent, often called the custodial parent. Alaska, Mississippi, Nevada, and Wisconsin use a flat percentage of income model, while North Dakota and Texas use a varying percentage of income model. The flat percentage of income model allocates the same percentage of a parent's income to child support, regardless of their income bracket, while the varying percentage of income model accounts for the income bracket of a parent. Taking a unique hybrid approach, the District of Columbia uses the varying percentage of income model, but its guidelines reduce the resulting amount based on the income of the recipient parent.

Finally, three states use an approach known as the Melson formula. In Delaware, Hawaii, and Montana, courts will consider the basic needs of each parent as well as the needs of the child. The Melson formula thus resembles the income shares model but adjusts it based on public policy considerations involving the parents.

Click on a state below for information about its approach to child support and links to forms that you may need to file if you are involved in a child support action.

**Alabama**

**Alaska**

**Arizona**

**Arkansas**

**California**

**Colorado**

**Connecticut**

**Delaware**

**District of Columbia**

**Florida**

**Georgia**

**Hawaii**

**Idaho**

**Illinois**

**Indiana**

**Iowa**

**Kansas**

**Kentucky**

**Louisiana**

**Maine**

**Maryland**

**Massachusetts**  
**Michigan**  
**Minnesota**  
**Mississippi**  
**Missouri**  
**Montana**  
**Nebraska**  
**Nevada**  
**New Hampshire**  
**New Jersey**  
**New Mexico**  
**New York**  
**North Carolina**  
**North Dakota**  
**Ohio**  
**Oklahoma**  
**Oregon**  
**Pennsylvania**  
**Rhode Island**  
**South Carolina**  
**South Dakota**  
**Tennessee**  
**Texas**  
**Utah**  
**Vermont**

**Virginia**

**Washington**

**West Virginia**

**Wisconsin**

**Wyoming**

## **Alabama**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 19
- **Guidelines: Alabama Rule of Judicial Administration 32**

The formula used to make an Alabama child support determination requires considering factors such as the combined gross income of the parents, the percentage of the gross income contributed by each parent, the number of minor children, and any pre-existing obligation by either parent to pay child support or spousal support. The formula also accounts for health insurance payments for children and who will pay them, as well as any amounts paid for work-related child care. A court will presume that the result provided by the formula is appropriate unless a parent shows that it is not. The parents may reach a written agreement for a different amount of child support if they have a reasonable

explanation for the deviation.

## **Alabama Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Alabama Administrative Office of Courts**

### **Alaska**

- **Model used:** Percentage of non-custodial parent's income (flat percentage)
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school and living with the custodial parent
- **Guidelines: Alaska Rule of Civil Procedure 90.3**

An Alaska child support calculation depends on the custody arrangement. If a parent has primary physical custody, meaning that they live with the child for more than 70 percent of the year, a court will calculate support based on the income of the other parent. Otherwise, a court will calculate support by determining the amount that each parent would pay if the other parent had primary custody. Sources of income include disability benefits, unemployment

benefits, and employer benefits, but not one-time payments or need-based public benefits. A court may deviate from the formula in situations involving a very large family, very low expenses, substantial health care costs, or other unusual circumstances.

## **Alaska Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Forms and Information About Child Support,  
Alaska Court System Self-Help Center**

### **Arizona**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines:** **Arizona Child Support Guidelines**

An Arizona child support order will account for several different types of expenses, including payments for education, health insurance, and basic needs, such as food and clothing. Other types of expenses that may be addressed include the costs of extracurricular activities, special health care or child care costs, and the costs of travel for visitation.

In setting a support amount, a judge will consider factors such as the income of each parent, the cost of health insurance, any expenses required for day care, and any government benefits paid to the child. Sometimes the parents can agree on an amount and ask the judge to approve it. A parent of a special needs child may need to pay support for longer than the normal duration.

## **Arizona Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Forms, Arizona Court Help**

## **Arkansas**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines:** **Arkansas Supreme Court Revised Administrative Order No. 10**

A judge making an Arkansas child support determination will need to calculate the combined gross monthly income of the parents and the percentage of the gross income contributed by each parent. The judge will consult a chart that defines the

basic child support obligation as a function of the combined gross income and the number of children. Income is defined broadly to include as many sources as possible and benefit the child to the greatest possible extent. A judge may deviate from the amount provided by the chart if that amount would be unjust or inappropriate, based on factors such as the child's best interests. If a parent is unemployed or underemployed without reasonable cause, a judge may impute income to that parent.

### **Arkansas Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms and Publications, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration**

## **California**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school full-time and living with a parent
- **Guidelines: California Family Code Sections 4050 et seq.**

A California child support order will need to account for expenses such as food, clothing, shelter, health insurance, education, and potentially child care and extracurricular activities. A judge also will incorporate any back payments and interest. In determining the amount that a parent must pay, a judge will consider the time that each parent spends with the child and the net disposable income of each parent. Net disposable income involves deducting items such as taxes, health insurance premiums, retirement contributions, and pre-existing child support or spousal support payments. It can include income sources such as wages, commissions, unemployment benefits, disability or workers' compensation benefits, and investment income, among others.

## **California Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Forms, California Courts**

## **Colorado**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 19, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 21 if the child is

still in high school

- **Guidelines: Colorado Revised Statutes Sections 14-10-115 et seq.** (see p. 95)

A Colorado child support calculation takes into account the gross income of each parent (aside from any public assistance, other child support payments paid or received, earnings on retirement plans, second jobs, or Social Security benefits received by the minor child) and applies a standard percentage of support to calculate the payment amount. The court will consider the financial resources of the child and the parents, the child's medical and educational needs, and any work-related child care costs and attempt to award a child support amount that would give the child a similar standard of living to what they would have enjoyed had the parents' relationship continued. If a parent is voluntarily unemployed or underemployed (as determined by reasonable consideration of the court), child support is calculated based on a determination of potential income.

## **Colorado Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Manual Worksheets, Colorado Judicial Branch**

## Connecticut

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Connecticut Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines**

To determine Connecticut child support using the child support schedule, each parent's gross income is calculated by their gross weekly income, including incentive-based compensation (like stock options) and Social Security benefits, but not Social Security Disability benefits or Social Security retirement benefits in excess of \$5 per week when the recipient also receives Supplemental Security Income to meet the SSI subsistence threshold. Parents may also deduct the full amount of any health insurance premiums for themselves and all legal dependents, including the child receiving support, from their gross income. Adjustments for low-income individuals are built into the schedule, but a parent making less than \$50 per week will not have a child support obligation.

## **Connecticut Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Documents and Forms, Connecticut Department of Health and Human Services**

## **Delaware**

- **Model used:** Melson formula
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Delaware Child Support Guidelines**

Delaware child support is calculated based on each parent's net income. This means that in addition to more obvious deductions like income taxes, each parent may also deduct a "self-support allowance." A self-support allowance is an amount, determined by the court, needed for each parent to meet their basic needs and continue performing at work. The current dollar amount for self-support allowances can be found in Form 509, below. The final child support amount will be influenced by a standard of living adjustment and the child's custody schedule. Delaware requires any child support decision to go through a mediator, at least initially.

## **Delaware Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Support Forms, Delaware Family Court**

**Form 509, Delaware Courts** (child support guidelines worksheet)

## **District of Columbia**

- **Model used:** Percentage of non-custodial parent's income (varying percentage), but adjusted according to custodial parent's income
- **When support ends:** Age 21
- **Guidelines: D.C. Code Annotated Section 16-916.01**

Along with the schedule of basic child support obligations, District of Columbia child support is affected by the child's custody arrangement. After each parent's adjusted gross income is combined and plotted on the schedule, each parent's percentage share of the combined adjusted gross income is multiplied by the child support obligation on the schedule. Thereafter, this number will be adjusted by the percentage of time that the child spends with the payor

parent if custody is not presumed to be equally shared. Washington, DC has a minimum child support obligation of \$75 if no information about gross income is provided.

## **District of Columbia Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Paternity and Child Support Forms, District of Columbia Courts**

## **Florida**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Florida Statutes Annotated Section 61.30**

Florida child support calculations include gross income associated with salary, bonuses, tips, overtime, disability benefits, workers' compensation benefits and settlements, unemployment benefits, retirement income, Social Security benefits, spousal support (including support from previous marriages), interest and dividends, rental income, royalties,

and trusts and estates. If a parent is voluntarily unemployed or underemployed, the court will impute income based on a reasonable estimate, unless that parent can show that they are physically or mentally incapacitated. A court may also impute income if a parent does not provide income information or does not appear for child support proceedings.

## **Florida Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Guidelines Worksheet, Florida Courts**

## **Georgia**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 20 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Georgia Code Annotated Section 19-6-15**

To calculate Georgia child support, a court will determine each parent's monthly gross income and may subtract one-half of the amount of self-employment taxes, the monetary

value of any pre-existing orders, or any theoretical child support order for any qualified child (a biological or adoptive child, but not a stepchild or other child in the home whom the parent has no legal obligation to support), if applicable. A court may also consider high or low incomes, health-related insurance, life insurance costs, child and dependent care tax credits, travel expenses, alimony, mortgage costs, permanency or foster care plans, extraordinary expenses, or parenting time, among other things.

## **Georgia Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Applications for Child Support Services, Georgia  
Department of Human Services**

## **Hawaii**

- **Model used:** Melson formula
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or age 19 if the child is still enrolled in high school or has been accepted at and plans to attend college, university, or a vocational school as a full-time student
- **Guidelines:** **Hawaii Child Support Guidelines**

The minimum amount of child support needed to provide for

a child's basic living needs in Hawaii, called "base primary support," is \$415 in 2020. This amount is dictated in Hawaii's child support guidelines, above, and was calculated by finding the monthly difference between a two- and one-person household according to the 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Hawaii's guidelines implement a standard of living adjustment alongside the base primary support and also consider health insurance and expenses for child care. Hawaii child support obligations are best estimated through the step-by-step process in its guidelines.

## **Hawaii Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Guidelines and Forms, Hawaii State Judiciary**

## **Idaho**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from or otherwise discontinues high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines:** Idaho Rule of Civil Procedure 6(c) (6)

Idaho child support is calculated by using the schedule set out in Idaho's child support guidelines. Child support is given priority over the needs of parents or creditors in any proceeding allocating family resources. The minimum child support obligation in Idaho is \$50 a month unless the parent would be denied a means for self-support at a minimum subsistence level. In addition to basic child support, a court may award reasonable expenses for work-related child care, transportation costs, or tax benefits in the form of an allocation of dependency benefits.

## **Idaho Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Applications & Forms, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare**

**Forms, Idaho Judicial Branch** (contains some child support forms)

## **Illinois**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school

- **Guidelines: Illinois Revised Statutes Chapter 750, Sections 5/505-5/510**

Illinois child support is calculated by adding each parent's monthly net income, selecting the corresponding obligation on the Illinois Healthcare and Family Services schedule of basic child support obligations, and calculating each parent's percentage share of the basic child support obligation. If the court makes a finding that this typical calculation would be inappropriate, it may make a different determination of child support, based on the financial resources and needs of the child, the financial resources and needs of the parents, the standard of living that the child would have enjoyed had both parents remained in the same household, and the physical and emotional condition of the child and their educational needs. In Illinois, there is a rebuttable presumption of a minimum child support obligation of \$40 per month, per child.

### **Illinois Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Illinois Department of  
Healthcare & Family Services**

## Indiana

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 19, or when the child graduates from high school
- **Guidelines: Indiana Child Support Rules and Guidelines**

Indiana child support factors include the financial resources of the parent with custody of the child, the standard of living that the child would enjoy had the parents been and remained married, the physical or mental condition of the child and the child's educational needs, and the financial resources and needs of the parent without custody. Child support payments are immediately withheld from the income of the parent obligated to pay child support. The court may order one or both parents to obtain health insurance coverage for the child.

### **Indiana Child Support Forms and Resources**

#### **Child Support Forms, Indiana Legal Help**

## Iowa

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Iowa Child Support Guidelines**

Both parents have a duty to pay Iowa child support, but usually only the non-custodial parent makes payments, since the law expects the custodial parent to spend their child support obligation directly on the child. Similarly, if the non-custodial parent's visitation time exceeds 127 days per year, they receive a child support credit. When the parents share custody, the parent with the larger income pays child support to ensure that the child's standard of living matches both parents' standards of living.

## **Iowa Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Iowa Department of Human Services**

## **Kansas**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child

graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school

- **Guidelines: Kansas Child Support Guidelines**

Kansas child support factors include the needs of the child, the standards of living and circumstances of the parents, the relative financial means of the parents, the earning capacity of the parents, the need and capacity of the child for education, the age of the child, the financial resources and earning ability of the child, the responsibility of the parents for the support of others, and the value of services contributed by both parents. The court may award both parents the right to information from health insurance providers regarding the health insurance coverage of the child.

## **Kansas Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Guidelines and Forms, Kansas Judicial Branch**

## **Kentucky**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child

graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school

- **Guidelines: Kentucky Revised Statutes Section 403.212**

Kentucky child support guidelines provide a calculation for child support, although the parents may agree to pay an amount different from that prescribed by the guidelines if the court approves. Kentucky takes into account most forms of income in its calculation, including military pensions, severance pay, royalties, dividends, trust distributions, and Social Security, workers' compensation, unemployment, and disability benefits. It does not include public assistance like food stamps.

### **Kentucky Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Kentucky Court of Justice**

## **Louisiana**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is

still in high school

- **Guidelines: Louisiana Revised Statutes Sections 9:315.1 et seq.**

Louisiana child support is calculated by using the gross income of the parents, but it may be adjusted by the court so long as the court gives specific reasons for deviating from the guidelines. The court may also order that a portion of child support be placed in a trust for the child, ending when the child turns 24 or at a later date as agreed by the parents. The non-custodial parent pays their share of the child support to the custodial parent, minus any court-ordered direct payments, such as child care costs, health insurance, and extraordinary expenses.

## **Louisiana Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Applications, Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services**

## **Maine**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child

graduates from or otherwise discontinues high school  
or turns 19 if the child is still in high school

▪ **Guidelines: Maine Revised Statutes Annotated  
Title 19-A, Chapter 63**

In Maine, the court uses affidavits supporting the combined gross annual income of both parents and the Maine child support table to determine a basic child support entitlement for each child. The total basic support obligation is determined by adding together child care costs, health insurance premiums (as determined by the cost of adding a child or the difference between an individual policy and a family policy), and extraordinary medical expenses in addition to the basic support entitlement from the table. After the total basic support obligation is calculated, it is attributed to each parent in proportion to each parent's gross income. The parent providing primary residential care will be entitled to payment of the other parent's share of the total basic support obligation.

**Maine Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Family Law Forms, Pine Tree Legal Assistance**

(scroll down for child support forms)

## Maryland

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Maryland Family Law Code Annotated Title 12, Subtitle 2**

In Maryland, any requests for alimony or maintenance are decided before determining Maryland child support.

Thereafter, any alimony or maintenance award is considered actual income for the recipient and is subtracted from the payor's income for the purpose of calculating child support obligations. Child care expenses are determined by actual family experience unless the court determines that this is not in the best interests of the child. If there is no actual family experience or the court does not find the actual family experience in the child's best interests, the court will award child support at a level required to provide quality care from a licensed source.

### **Maryland Child Support Forms and Resources**

#### **Child Support Resources and Forms, Maryland**

## Department of Human Services

### Massachusetts

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from an educational program or turns 21 if the child is still enrolled in an educational program and is living with the custodial parent
- **Guidelines: Massachusetts Child Support Guidelines**

In Massachusetts, child support is based in part on parenting time. The basic guidelines include a default calculation for a non-custodial parent who spends one-third of the time with the child. Calculations are adjusted if the parents spend approximately the same amount of time with the child, if each parent has primary custody of one or more children (split), or any other combination of parenting schedules. If a parent spends substantially less than one-third of the time with the child, a court may increase a Massachusetts child support obligation. A court may award child support for a child who is 18 or older at its discretion.

### Massachusetts Child Support Forms and

## Resources

### Forms for Child Support Guidelines, Massachusetts Probate and Family Court

## Michigan

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19<sup>1/2</sup> if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Michigan Compiled Laws Sections 552.605 et seq.**

Michigan child support is calculated by using a formula to find the base child support obligation and offsetting that number with the time that the child spends with each parent, among other factors, to determine the ultimate child support obligation. In Michigan, a parent's income can include interest earned on inheritances and gifts, but not property or principal from an inheritance or one-time gift. Income also may include the value of gifts that a parent receives from others to the extent that those gifts significantly and regularly reduce personal expenses or replace or supplement employment income.

## **Michigan Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms and Publications, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services**

### **Minnesota**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 20 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines:** **Minnesota Statutes Annotated Sections 518A.35** et seq.

Minnesota child support is determined by matching the parents' incomes and the number of joint children to the child support schedule. If a parent is voluntarily unemployed or underemployed, or provides no evidence of income, child support is calculated based on potential income. Potential income is determined by evaluating the parent's employment potential, recent work history, and occupational qualifications. If the parent is receiving unemployment or workers' compensation benefits, the court may use that actual dollar amount as potential income. Finally, the court

may impute potential income based on what the parent could earn working 30 hours per week at 100 percent of the current federal or state minimum wage, whichever is higher.

## **Minnesota Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Court Forms, Minnesota Judicial Branch**

## **Mississippi**

- **Model used:** Percentage of non-custodial parent's income (flat percentage)
- **When support ends:** Age 21
- **Guidelines: Mississippi Code Sections 43-19-101 et seq.**

In calculating the parents' incomes for the purpose of Mississippi child support, a court may subtract not only taxes, Social Security contributions, and non-voluntary retirement and disability contributions, but also other court-ordered support costs and appropriate amounts for the needs of other children residing with the parent. Mississippi child support obligations always include reasonable medical

support. A court may deviate from the standard child support calculation if there are extraordinary medical, psychological, educational, or dental expenses, independent income of the child, spousal support paid to the obligee, seasonal variations in either parent's income or expenses, special needs, a significant difference in visitation time, work-related or disability-related child care expenses, or other equitable considerations, including the child's age.

## **Mississippi Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Application for Child Support Services, Mississippi  
Department of Human Services**

## **Missouri**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 21 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Missouri Revised Statutes Section 452.340**

Factors considered in awarding Missouri child support

include the financial needs and resources of the child, the financial needs and resources of the parents, the standard of living that the child would have enjoyed had both parents remained in the same household, the physical and emotional condition of the child and the child's educational needs, the child's physical and legal custody arrangements, and the reasonable work-related child care expenses of each parent.

## **Missouri Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Application for Child Support Services, Missouri  
Department of Social Services**

## **Montana**

- **Model used:** Melson formula
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 20 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Montana Administrative Rules Chapter 37.62, Subchapter 1**

Montana child support guidelines account for standard of living adjustments, meaning that the court will attempt to

ensure that the child enjoys a standard of living commensurate with the parents' incomes, to the extent practicable. Montana also allows each parent to deduct a personal allowance before determining child support. This number is calculated by multiplying the federal poverty guideline for a one-person household by 1.3. If the parent has a legal obligation to more dependents, the calculation is done by increasing the number in the household when consulting the federal poverty guidelines.

## **Montana Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services**

## **Nebraska**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 19
- **Guidelines:** **Nebraska Court Rules Chapter 4, Article 2**

Nebraska child support guidelines stipulate a minimum monthly support amount of \$50 or 10 percent of the obligor's

income, whichever is greater. In addition to the basic child support guideline determination, a court may add child care expenses. Child care expenses are those incurred due to the employment of either parent or incurred to allow either parent to obtain training or education necessary for a job or enhanced earning potential. The value of the federal income tax credit for child care is subtracted from the gross child care expenses to arrive at the net child care expenses.

## **Nebraska Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Application for Child Support Services, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

**Forms for Families & Children, Nebraska Judicial Branch** (contains some child support forms)

## **Nevada**

- **Model used:** Percentage of non-custodial parent's income (flat percentage)
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school

## ▪ **Guidelines: Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 425**

In Nevada, while both parents are responsible for child support, usually only the non-custodial parent makes payments because the custodial parent is assumed to spend their share of child support directly on the child. In cases of shared or split custody, it is usually the parent with the higher income who pays the support. Nevada child support takes into account the number of children, the gross monthly incomes of both parents, and the custody arrangement. The court will then adjust child support up or down based on considerations such as health insurance, the child's age, the child's special education needs, and the value of services contributed by each parent.

### **Nevada Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Applications & Forms, Nevada  
Department of Health and Human Services**

**Custody, Paternity, and Child Support Forms,  
Nevada Self-Help Center** (scroll down for child support worksheets)

## New Hampshire

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: New Hampshire Revised Statutes Chapter 458C**

New Hampshire uses a formula contained in its child support worksheet to calculate New Hampshire child support, but the figure can be adjusted based on certain factors. These factors include ongoing extraordinary medical, dental, or educational expenses, significantly high or low income of either parent, the economic consequences of the presence of stepparents, stepchildren, and adopted or natural children, and the parenting schedule, among other considerations.

### **New Hampshire Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services**

## New Jersey

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 19, or when the child graduates from high school or college or turns 23 if the child is still in high school or college
- **Guidelines: New Jersey Rule of Court 5:6A, Appendix IX**

The purpose of New Jersey's child support laws is to ensure that children benefit from the combined income of both parents and do not suffer because their parents do not live in the same household. Parents are required to submit a completed child support worksheet to the court, although the court may deviate from the amount awarded by the worksheet if it documents its reasoning on the worksheet. The New Jersey child support guidelines incorporate considerations based on scientific studies and various child rearing philosophies.

## **New Jersey Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Resources and Forms, New Jersey  
Department of Human Services**

## **New Mexico**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: New Mexico Statutes Sections 40-4-11.1 et seq.**

New Mexico child support calculates each parent's income based on their actual gross income, or potential income if a parent is unemployed or underemployed. Gross income includes salaries, wages, tips, commissions, bonuses, dividends, severance pay, pensions, interest, trust income, annuities, capital gains, Social Security benefits, workers' compensation benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, disability insurance benefits, significant in-kind benefits that reduce personal living expenses, prizes, and alimony (maintenance).

## **New Mexico Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Applications for Child Support, New Mexico  
Human Services Department**

## **New York**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 21
- **Guidelines: New York Domestic Relations Laws Section 240(1-b)**

New York child support is calculated by using both parents' incomes and the number of children for whom the parents are responsible (joint children and separate). The combined gross income is multiplied by a specified percentage determined by the number of children. The parents are then each responsible for the proportion of child support matching their income. For example, a parent whose income makes up 35 percent of the total gross income would pay 35 percent of the total child support obligation.

### **New York Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, New York State Unified Court System**

**Child Support Publications and Forms, New York Department of Child Support Enforcement**

## **North Carolina**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 20 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: North Carolina Child Support Guidelines**

North Carolina's child support guidelines intend to provide children with equitable awards based on the incomes of both parents, but they also contain a self-support reserve to ensure that paying parents can maintain a standard of living based on the 2018 federal poverty level. For any obligor with an adjusted gross income below the federal poverty level, the guidelines provide for minimum child support of \$50. On the other hand, if the combined adjusted gross income is more than \$30,000 per month or \$360,000 per year, the court will not apply the child support schedule and will determine a North Carolina child support obligation entirely on a case-by-case basis.

## **North Carolina Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Application for Child Support Services, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

## Child Support Forms, North Carolina Judicial Branch

### North Dakota

- **Model used:** Percentage of non-custodial parent's income (varying percentage)
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: North Dakota Administrative Code Subsection 75-02-04.1**

Child support in North Dakota is calculated from the standard determination of each parent's income and assumes that the primary caregiver spends their share of child support directly on the child, and only the non-custodial parent makes child support payments. In addition to the regular schedule of North Dakota child support, the court may add expenses such as child care costs and school fees. Temporary child care by the obligor or the obligor's relatives does not substitute for a child support obligation.

### North Dakota Child Support Forms and Resources

## **Child Support Forms and FAQs, North Dakota**

### **Department of Human Services**

## **Ohio**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school
- **Guidelines:** **Ohio Revised Code Sections 3119.01** et seq.

The Ohio child support mathematical formula is based primarily on the parents' gross incomes and medical insurance costs for the whole family. The entire cost of health insurance offsets the child support payment, not only the additional cost of covering the child. If the parents' combined gross income is greater or less than the incomes listed in Ohio's child support schedule, the court will determine child support obligations based on the standard of living of the child. Ohio child support takes into account the custody and care schedule for the child. If the payor's visitation schedule indicates 90 or more overnight visitations with the child, the payor's child support obligation is reduced by 10 percent.

## Ohio Child Support Forms and Resources

### Child Support Forms, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

## Oklahoma

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 20 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Oklahoma Statutes Title 43, Sections 118 et seq.**

Oklahoma child support guidelines consider gross income, both earned and passive, from any source, including salaries, wages, tips, commissions, bonuses, severance pay, military pay, dividends, pensions, rent, interest income, trust income, support alimony from someone other than the other parent in the child support case, annuities, Social Security benefits, workers' compensation benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, disability insurance benefits, gifts, prizes, gambling winnings, lottery winnings, and royalties.

## **Oklahoma Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Application for Child Support Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services**

**Child Support Forms, Oklahoma Supreme Court Network**

## **Oregon**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or college or turns 21 if the child is still in high school or college
- **Guidelines: Oregon Child Support Guideline Rules 137-050**

Oregon child support is calculated by determining each parent's adjusted income and percentage share of adjusted income, deducting self-support reserves, and determining the basic child support obligation and each parent's proportional share. The court then adds child care costs, medical support obligations, parenting time credits, cash support obligations, and other extra considerations. Oregon also incorporates a

parenting time credit within the formula in its guidelines. The court will presume that each child is entitled to at least \$100 in child support per month.

## **Oregon Child Support Forms and Resources**

### **Child Support Forms, Oregon Department of Justice**

## **Pennsylvania**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school
- **Guidelines: Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure 1910.16-1** et seq.

Pennsylvania child support is calculated by using a standard formula, but a court may deviate from it by considering certain factors, including unusual needs and unusual fixed obligations, other support obligations of the parties, other income in the household, the ages of the children, the relative assets and liabilities of the parties, medical expenses not covered by insurance, the standards of living of the parties and their children, the duration of the marriage (in the case

of marriage and spousal support), and other relevant and appropriate factors, including the best interests of the child or children.

## **Pennsylvania Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services**

## **Rhode Island**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or 90 days after the child graduates from high school or when the child turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Rhode Island Child Support Guidelines Administrative Order**

Rhode Island child support is calculated by determining the gross incomes of both parents before taxes and any other deductions. Living expenses are not deducted from this number. Gross income includes income from workers' compensation benefits, temporary disability benefits, and Social Security Disability benefits. However, standard Social

Security is not considered income. The court then makes deductions for health insurance premiums, pre-existing child support payments, support of additional children, and the cost of child care. It can make deductions for other things on a discretionary basis, such as retirement benefits, life insurance payments, extraordinary medical expenses, income tax adjustments, and payments of original marital debts.

## **Rhode Island Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms and Pamphlets, Rhode Island Department of Human Services**

## **South Carolina**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines:** **South Carolina Code of Regulations, Chapter 114, Article 47**

Gross income for the purpose of calculating South Carolina child support includes salaries, wages, commissions,

royalties, bonuses, rents (minus allowable business expenses), dividends, severance pay, pensions, interest, trust income, annuities, capital gains, Social Security benefits (but not Supplemental Security Income), workers' compensation benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, veterans' benefits, and alimony. For income from self-employment, proprietorship, or ownership of a business, gross income is gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses.

## **South Carolina Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Applications for Child Support Services, South Carolina Department of Social Services**

**Child Support Modification Packets, South Carolina Judicial Branch**

## **South Dakota**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines:** **South Dakota Codified Laws**

## Sections 25-7-6.1 et seq.

South Dakota child support is calculated by using both parents' incomes, but if a parent is unemployed or underemployed, unless that parent has a physical or mental disability, there is a rebuttable presumption of employment at minimum wage. The minimum wage for this purpose is calculated as the state minimum wage at 1,820 hours per year. However, evidence to rebut this presumption may be presented to the court, and the court can adjust imputed income up or down based on the evidence and its discretion.

### **South Dakota Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Forms and Publications, South Dakota Department of Social Services** (scroll down to Child Support section or use filter)

## Tennessee

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or when the class the child is in when they reach 18 graduates

- **Guidelines: Tennessee Rules and Regulations**  
**Sections 1240-02-04-.01 et seq.**

Tennessee's child support guidelines, at a minimum, prescribe that all Tennessee child support must take into consideration all the earnings and income of the alternate residential parent, the basic subsistence needs of an alternate residential parent who has limited ability to pay, and imputed income (taking into account assets, residence, employment history, job skills, education, health, etc.). A judge must also address how the parents will provide for the child's health care needs and may deviate from the guidelines if it is in the best interests of the child or children subject to the support award.

### **Tennessee Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Application for Child Support Services, Tennessee Department of Human Services**

**Forms and Applications, Tennessee Department of Human Services** (scroll down for additional child support forms)

## Texas

- **Model used:** Percentage of non-custodial parent's income (varying percentage)
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school
- **Guidelines: Texas Family Code Sections 154.001 et seq.**

In addition to typical Texas child support, Texas courts may order a parent to pay retroactive child support if the parent has not previously been ordered to pay child support and was not a party to a proceeding in which support was ordered. If a parent was subject to a previous child support order, they may still be ordered to pay retroactive child support if the previous child support order terminated as a result of the marriage or remarriage of the child's parents, the child's parents separated after the marriage or remarriage, and a new child support order is sought after the date of the separation.

### **Texas Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Office of Texas Attorney  
General**

## Utah

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child is normally expected to graduate from high school
- **Guidelines:** **Utah Code Title 78B, Chapter 12**

Utah child support guidelines contain a child support schedule, but a court may deviate from the schedule as it considers the following factors: the standards of living and situations of the parties, the relative wealth and incomes of the parties, the ability of the obligor to earn, the ability of the obligee to earn, the ability of an incapacitated adult child to earn or other benefits received by the adult child or on the adult child's behalf (including Supplemental Security Income), the needs of the parties, the ages of the parties, and the responsibilities of the obligor and the obligee for the support of others.

### **Utah Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Utah Courts**

## Vermont

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school, college, or a vocational school or turns 21 if the child is still in high school, college, or a vocational school
- **Guidelines: Vermont Statutes Title 15, Sections 653 et seq.**

In Vermont, child support is divided between the parents in proportion to their respective and available incomes. The non-custodial parent pays their total child support obligation to the custodial parent, and the custodial parent is presumed to spend their respective share directly on the child. If the application of the Vermont child support guidelines would reduce a non-custodial parent's income below the self-support reserve, the non-custodial parent's share of the total support obligation is presumed to be the difference between the self-support reserve and their available income.

## **Vermont Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms & Publications, Vermont Department for Children & Families**

## Virginia

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Virginia Code Sections 20-108.1 et seq.**

To determine Virginia child support obligations, a court considers all relevant evidence, but there is a rebuttable presumption that the obligation set out in the Virginia child support guidelines is appropriate. To rebut that presumption, a court can consider factors such as actual monetary support for other family members, custody and visitation arrangements, child care costs, marriage debts for the benefit of the child, the standards of living of all parties, and other relevant factors.

### **Virginia Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Child Support Forms, Virginia Department of Social Services**

## Washington

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school
- **Guidelines: Washington Revised Code Sections 26.19.001 et seq.**

To calculate income for the purpose of Washington child support, the court takes into account each parent's income, but not any income or resources of another person. Income includes salaries, wages, commissions, deferred compensation, overtime, contract-related benefits, income from second jobs, dividends, interest, trust income, severance pay, annuities, capital gains, pension retirement benefits, workers' compensation benefits, unemployment benefits, maintenance actually received, bonuses, Social Security benefits, disability insurance benefits, and income from self-employment. It does not include sources such as gifts and prizes or overtime income from second jobs beyond 40 hours per week.

## **Washington Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Division of Child Support Forms, Washington  
State Department of Social and Health Services**

## West Virginia

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or a vocational program if the child is still in high school or a vocational program and living with the custodial parent
- **Guidelines: West Virginia Code Chapter 48, Article 13**

West Virginia places great emphasis on children sharing in their parents' standard of living and thus increases or decreases child support obligations based on a parent's wages and any other source of income. West Virginia child support guidelines aim to ensure that child support payments are in proportion to what the child would have enjoyed had they lived or continued to live in a household shared by both parents. In fact, the court may order that a portion of child support be placed in a trust and invested for the future, if the child's present needs are met.

### **West Virginia Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Application for Child Support Services, West Virginia Bureau for Child Support Enforcement**

**Family Court Forms, West Virginia Judiciary** (scroll down for child support forms)

## Wisconsin

- **Model used:** Percentage of non-custodial parent's income (flat percentage)
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 19 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Wisconsin Administrative Code DCF 150**

While a Wisconsin child support obligation is usually determined by using the child support schedule, a court may deviate from the standard percentage if it finds that the standard is unfair to either parent or the child. Furthermore, a court may deviate from the typical calculation if a parent is responsible for paying child support to more than one family (or has a child support obligation under a paternity judgment or acknowledgment), both parents share custody equally as determined by the court, custody for multiple children between parents is split differently, the payer is low-income, the payer is high-income, or a combination of these special circumstances.

## **Wisconsin Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Application for Child Support Services, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families**

**Circuit Court Family Forms, Wisconsin Court System** (includes some child support forms)

## **Wyoming**

- **Model used:** Income shares
- **When support ends:** Age 18, or when the child graduates from high school or turns 20 if the child is still in high school
- **Guidelines: Wyoming Statutes Sections 20-2-301 et seq.**

Courts determining Wyoming child support payments are able to deviate from the standard guidelines if a particular recommendation prescribed by the guidelines is unfair to a parent or the child. If this is the case, the court may consider factors such as the age of the child, the cost of child care, the child's educational and health needs, the needs of anyone else whom the parent is supporting, the value of services that each

parent contributes, the financial resources of the child and the parents, the amount of time that the child spends with each parent, the physical, mental, and emotional needs of the child, and any other relevant factors.

## **Wyoming Child Support Forms and Resources**

**Court Self-Help Forms, Wyoming Judicial Branch**  
(click on Family Law and scroll down for child support forms)

*Last reviewed January 2023*

## **Child Custody and Support Law Center Contents**

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# **Family Law and Digital Evidence**

**Presented August 14, 2025**

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