

WHAT IF THE PAYOR LIVES IN ANOTHER STATE?

A parent can't avoid paying child support by leaving Iowa. Federal law says all states must enforce child support orders no matter where the order was entered.

WHAT WILL IOWA CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES (CSS) DO?

First, we try to find out what state the payor lives, works, or has assets in. When we do, we may ask the child support agency of that state to establish or enforce support.

If there's already an order and we find the parent's employer in another state, we may send an income withholding order to that employer. If the payor is not employed, we may ask the other state to try to collect child support.

ACTIONS OTHER STATES MAY TAKE

When we ask another state for enforcement services, that state does what it can under its laws to get the payor to pay support. For example, we may ask the other state to send us state income tax refunds or place liens on property the payor owns. We may also take the payor's federal income tax refunds.

By law, state child support agencies must cooperate with each other in handling cases referred for services. In practice, it is not a simple matter. **When a case is sent to another state, the case actions are subject to the laws and time frames of that state.** That's why it is hard to say how long it will take for that state to act. We periodically ask the other state to tell us what is happening on interstate cases.

You can find information on state laws and procedures in the Intergovernmental Reference Guide through the federal Office of Child Support Services website at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/parents>.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO SUPPORT ORDER?

The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, found in Iowa Code Chapter 252K, says how states must enter support orders when parents live in different states. This law also says how support orders can be enforced or changed. If the other parent is not subject to Iowa's laws, another state may be able to get a child support order. Each state has its own ways to establish and enforce child support.

CAN PATERNITY BE ESTABLISHED?

A child's father can be established even if one parent lives in Iowa and the other parent lives in another state.

The other state may require that you testify in court. We can help you arrange to testify virtually unless you must appear in person.

WHAT IF THE PAYOR IS LOCATED AND THEN MOVES AGAIN?

Sometimes it is hard to enforce child support payments when the payor moves to avoid paying child support. However, we try to collect child support in all cases.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Tell us if you know the payor has moved or has a new job.
- Keep us up to date about where you live and work.
- Contact us when you have new information that will help us work on your case and keep our records accurate.

General Information About CSS

CSS staff are available to assist you with questions regarding your child support case.

- Call the child support information line at 1-888-229-9223 (toll free nationwide) for automated information, or
- Contact a child support office. To find contact information for the child support offices, visit the “Offices” tab on the Iowa Child Support website at www.childsupport.ia.gov.

Policy Regarding Discrimination, Harassment, Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) policy on nondiscrimination, harassment, affirmative action, and equal employment can be viewed on the HHS website at the bottom of the page at: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/>.

If you have questions, call your local child support office or call the child support automated information line at 1-888-229-9223 (toll free nationwide), or visit the Iowa Child Support website: www.childsupport.ia.gov.