

TOP TX CHILD SUPPORT LAW QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Written by a
Former Attorney General of Texas Lawyer



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WRITTEN BY A FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS LAWYER**

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INTRODUCTION

Why I Wrote This Book

As a former attorney with the Texas Office of the Attorney General Child Support Division ([OAG](#)), I've seen firsthand how overwhelming and confusing the child support system can be for parents. Since the summer of 2008 when I began working as a law student intern in the OAG and in the IV-D child support courts, until 2014, when I left to start my [private family law practice](#), I've worked within a system that impacts thousands of Texas families every day. This experience gave me unique insights into child support processes—both inside the OAG's office and in child support courts across Texas. I've implemented much of what I've learned into my two brands, [YourChildSupportLawyer.com](#) and [ChildSupportMediation.com](#). I also discuss child support matters on my [Lawyers & Mediators International Podcast](#), which can be found [on YouTube](#) and on [LMIPodcast.com](#).

How the Texas Child Support System Works

The OAG handles child support matters through two main channels:

1. "Inside the Office": Cases are primarily managed by Child Support Officers (CSOs). These caseworkers handle the day-to-day administration of child support cases, from establishing support orders to enforcing existing ones. They're often your first point of contact with the system.
2. In the Courts: When cases require legal action, they move to the court system, where IV-D Associate Judges specialized in child support matters, or regular District Court Judges hear cases. These judges make crucial decisions about support amounts, enforcement actions, and modifications. And the cases are prosecuted and moved forward by state child support attorneys called Assistant Attorney Generals (AAGs).

A third channel not discussed too often is the hybrid approach of mediation. This is where parents see a third party conflict resolution professional called a mediator to help them settle their child support dispute outside of court. The parents then request the Judge to grant a judgement on the mediated settlement agreement. Two key points to remember with child support mediation are that statistically speaking most mediations do tend to reach settlement. Also, employees of the Attorney General, like CSOs or AAGs, are not neutral because they do have a client, that is the State of Texas. Learn more about child support mediation at [ChildSupportMediation.com](#).

How This Book Can Help You

Whether you're dealing with the OAG for the first time or navigating a modification of an existing order, this book answers the most common questions parents have about Texas child support in plain English. The questions and answers come from real situations I've encountered throughout my career and routine questions I've been asked in consultations, both as an Assistant Attorney General and as a private family law attorney. The answers are not definitive, but written broadly and generally.

Child support law touches three deeply personal aspects of life: your money, your children, and your relationships, including sexual relations. It's an area of law that can trigger strong emotions and have lasting financial implications. Understanding your rights and obligations isn't just important—it's essential for your child's life and your entire legal future. Understanding your rights and responsibilities helps you:

- Make better decisions
- Avoid common pitfalls
- Protect your interests
- Support your children
- Navigate the system
- Maintain compliance

Important Disclaimer

While this book provides valuable information about Texas child support law, it is not legal advice. Every family's situation is unique, and the law can be complex. Additionally, laws and procedures can change over time. Before making any decisions about your child support case, you should consult with a licensed Texas attorney who can review your specific circumstances and provide personalized legal advice. If your issue deals with an interstate matter, you should consult a licensed attorney in the state where the legal matter sits. Although I am licensed to practice law in Florida as well, and am familiar with Florida's [child support agency](#), this book is intended for a Texas audience.

The questions and answers that follow are designed to give you a general foundation of knowledge about Texas child support law, helping you better understand the system and make informed decisions about your case. They are not necessarily written in any particular order.

Thank you for reading. I hope this information helps you better understand and navigate the Texas child support system.

/s/ Mac Pierre-Louis, J.D., M.Ed., November 2024

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. HOW IS CHILD SUPPORT CALCULATED IN TEXAS?

At its most basic level, depending on the number of kids to support, the non-custodial parent (NCP) pays a percentage of their monthly after-tax net income, which is determined based on the Attorney General's annually released [tax chart](#). Texas law provides the "[guidelines](#)" for calculating support and specifies the percentages to be used on after-tax (net) income, like 20% for 1 child, 25% for 2, 30% 3, etc. Monthly credits are given for "outside" kids the NCP supports, as well as credits items like for insurance costs. The OAG's website provides [a basic support calculator](#), but my manual calculations tutorial can be watched [here](#).

2. WHAT IS DEFINED AS INCOME THAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR CHILD SUPPORT?

Income sources are listed in the Net Resources section listed in Texas Family Code 154.062. All average monthly income counts, including overtime and bonuses, but not government assistance like TANF or SSI.

3. WHEN DOES SUPPORT END?

Typically, support ends when your child turns 18 or graduates high school (whichever is later), gets married, or becomes emancipated early.

4. WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER CHILDREN WHEN MY ORDER IS BEING CREATED?

You're entitled to credit for other kids you have at home or who you support to reduce your child support payment amount.

5. WHAT IF I HAVE CHILDREN WITH SOMEONE ELSE AFTER MY ORDER IS DONE?

Your support percentage will reduce according to specific charts for other children you support. But you need to make it happen as it's not automatic.

6. CAN SUPPORT BE MODIFIED?

Yes, you can request a review after 3 years or if there's a significant change in one of the parties' circumstances.

7. HOW DOES MEDIATION WORK IN CHILD SUPPORT LAW?

It allows parents to privately reach agreements on payment amounts, debts, and insurance over their kids for submission to the court. Agreements may sometimes need approval by the Attorney General's Office.

8. WHAT IF I FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY?

Child support can't be discharged in bankruptcy - your obligation continues.

9. DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR COLLEGE?

No, but you can sometimes agree to it in your court order.

10. DOES MY REMARRIAGE AFFECT SUPPORT?

No. Your new spouse's income isn't considered for support calculations.

11. WHAT IF I'M SELF-EMPLOYED?

You'll usually need to provide tax returns and business records to verify your income. Bank records may be helpful but not always necessary.

12. CAN I PAY THE OTHER PARENT DIRECTLY?

No. For everyone's protection, all payments must go through the state disbursement unit or SDU in San Antonio.

13. WHAT IF I MOVE TO ANOTHER STATE?

Your support order remains valid and enforceable through UIFSA agreements.

14. CAN GRANDPARENTS BE ORDERED TO PAY?

No, unless they become a "legal parent," such as through adoption.

15. WHAT IF PATERNITY HASN'T BEEN ESTABLISHED?

If you're not already named the legal father by presumption or AOP, you usually have your right to request DNA testing before final-order child support payments can be ordered.

16. IS THERE A MINIMUM SUPPORT AMOUNT?

Yes, based on minimum wage for a 40-hour work week.

17. WHAT HAPPENS TO UNPAID SUPPORT?

It remains owned, and can even become a judgment bearing annual interest, and is still collectible even after the child emancipates.

18. CAN THE RECEIVING PARENT REFUSE SUPPORT?

Unless your rights are terminated, no, since it's the child's right to be supported by both parents.

19. WHAT IF I'M IN PRISON?

Your support continues but you can request modification based on inability to pay.

20. ARE DAYCARE COSTS INCLUDED?

You can sometimes ask for daycare costs actually being paid to be factored into the child support calculation in order to reduce child support further.

21. HOW FAR BACK CAN SUPPORT BE ORDERED?

Usually since physical separation of the parents, back to the child's birth, or 4 years, whichever is more recent.

22. WHAT IF I'M DENIED VISITATION?

Since visitation and support are separate issues and not dependent on each other, you must keep paying. You can enforce your visitation rights in court.

23. CAN SUPPORT BE TAKEN FROM MY PAYCHECK?

Yes. Through wage withholding to your employer, although it's ultimately your responsibility to make sure it gets paid if your employer makes an error.

24. WHAT IF I LOSE MY JOB?

File for a modification since child support continues as is until modified by the court.

25. WHAT IF I QUIT MY JOB?

It depends, but usually your support amount will remain the same if it seems you changed your income intentionally by quitting or underemploying yourself.

26. DOES THE OTHER PARENT'S INCOME MATTER?

Usually no, except when determining medical support or requesting guideline deviations.

27. WHAT ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE?

The obligor usually must also provide health and dental insurance directly for the kids or reimburse the other parent or the state to do so up to the 9% rule.

28. CAN WE MAKE OUR OWN SUPPORT AGREEMENT?

Yes, if the court approves it and finds it's in your child's best interest. This is usually much easier with a formal mediated settlement agreement or MSA filed with the court.

29. DO MY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS COUNT?

Yes, unemployment benefits is considered income for support calculations.

30. CAN SUPPORT BE ORDERED IF I NEVER MARRIED THE OTHER PARENT?

Yes, as long as paternity is established it does not matter if you're married to the other parent.

31. WHAT IF I RECEIVE DISABILITY?

Support can come from your disability benefits since its income, whether from SSDI or Military, but not SSI.

32. WHAT IF MY CHILD RECEIVES DEPENDENT BENEFITS DUE TO MY DISABILITY?

Your kid's benefits stemming from your disability count toward your support obligation as a credit.

33. WHAT IS 50/50 CUSTODY?

This usually means to most people that the parents share the kids equally and neither pays support. This is almost never ordered by a court but by the parents' agreement in how they choose to possess and support their kids. Support may still be ordered based on income difference, but guidelines might be adjusted.

34. IS LIFE INSURANCE REQUIRED?

Courts don't usually support such a thing. The parties can agree to it though.

35. WHAT IF I WORK FOR CASH?

While this becomes more difficult by the day in our cashless society, the court usually uses proven cash income, ability to earn evidence, lifestyle evidence, or minimum wage if income cannot be verified.

36. DOES A CUSTODIAL PARENT HAVE TO ACCOUNT FOR HOW CHILD SUPPORT IS SPENT?

No, the child's needs just must be met.

37. IS CHILD SUPPORT TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

No to either the CP or NCP. However, parents sometimes share who will get to claim the child for taxes, such as on odd or even years.

38. WHAT IF I HAVE ZERO INCOME?

Support must still be set based on the minimum wage, unless you can show inability to work such as with verified disability, but even disability income may be evidence of some income.

39. WHAT IF I WANT TO GET RID OF A LOT OF UNPAID CHILD SUPPORT ARREARS?

Depending on how the arrears grew, you may have options, such as asking for a release from the CP in exchange for a lump sum payment, asking for possession credits, or setting up a payment plan for the full amount.

40. CAN I PAY SUPPORT IN ADVANCE?

Usually not suggested as it messes with the child support accounting and creates "future pay" credit, but if you do mark it as an advance payment.

41. WHAT IF THE OTHER PARENT MOVES?

Unless otherwise noted in the court order, each parent must notify the other of address changes.

42. CAN WE AGREE TO STOP SUPPORT?

It depends. Usually yes when you start living together. Usually no when there's state benefits being received for the child, such as Medicaid. Either way, only the court can officially terminate support. You may just need to ask.

43. CAN I HAVE WAGE WITHHOLDING IF SELF-EMPLOYED?

Yes, if you have any regular income sources.

44. WHAT HAPPENS IF I DIE?

While current support might end, any child support debt becomes owed by your estate.

45. HOW DOES CHILD SUPPORT AFFECT FOOD STAMPS?

It can be counted as income toward eligibility.

46. WHAT IF PARENTS GET BACK TOGETHER?

Child support can be stopped once the court signs a new modification order.

47. WHAT IF MY CHILD LIVES WITH ME THE NCP NOW?

You still need to file to have the court modify custody and support to formally end your obligation. However, you may still owe unpaid back child support.

48. CAN I PAY BY CREDIT CARD?

Yes of course, the child support office will always take your money, after the credit card processing fees.

49. WHAT ABOUT INHERITANCE I RECEIVE?

A single inheritance can be used to pay back child support arrears. Regular inheritance income can be used for ongoing child support calculations and payments.

50. CAN MY LICENSES BE SUSPENDED?

Yes. Your driver's, professional, and recreational licenses can be suspended for non-payment, although it's sometimes a last resort for chronic non-payers.

51. WHAT IF I LIVE ABROAD?

The UIFSA rules apply to international child support as well when it comes to create orders, collect payments, and enforce non-payments. Although non-Hague countries may be especially difficult to deal with.

52. WHAT IF THE CP GETS TANF?

State benefits being received for the child usually means the Attorney General will work extra hard to make sure an order gets established and payments get collected.

53. WHO PAYS ATTORNEY FEES?

Although rare, unless it's to enforce a very large child support debt, the court is able to order the paying parent to pay reasonable attorney fees. It's more common to him to pay court costs.

54. WHAT ABOUT FOSTER CARE?

Both parents may be ordered to pay child support to the state.

55. WHAT IF MY CHILD WAS BORN OUTSIDE TEXAS?

Birth location doesn't matter. What matters is jurisdiction over the parties when establishing or enforcing an order since it's jurisdiction that determines what legal remedies are available.

56. WHAT ABOUT MILITARY SERVICE?

Military ethics will always encourage support of minor children. Orders can be established and support paid through military pay withholding. However the Service Members Civil Relief Act can protect military personnel in some ways.

57. WHAT ABOUT DISPUTED MEDICAL EXPENSES?

In most court orders parents are to split such expenses 50/50 and reimburse the other or pay the medical provider within 30 days upon proper notice of the bill. If payment is not being received, keep your receipts since the court can enforce non-payments.

58. CAN MY TAX REFUNDS BE TAKEN?

Yes, both federal and state refunds can be intercepted for past-due support.

59. WHAT IF MY CHILD MARRIES BEFORE 18?

Support terminates automatically.

60. CAN MY RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS BE GARNISHED?

Yes, both ongoing payments and lump sums can be taken.

61. WHAT IF I START A BUSINESS?

Your support continues. However, in the event either parent wants a modification (increase or decrease), the court may need to examine business records when determining average monthly income.

62. CAN INCREASED CHILD NEEDS MODIFY SUPPORT?

Yes, significant changes in your child's needs can justify modification. But this oftentimes becomes a bitter dispute for the court to hear and rule upon.

63. WHAT ABOUT OUT-OF-STATE ARREARS?

Texas helps collect through interstate enforcement when the NCP resides in Texas.

64. WILL SUPPORT AFFECT MY PASSPORT?

Yes, a renewal hold is usually placed by the State Department when you owe at least \$2,500 in arrears since you're considered a flight-risk. However, negotiations can be made to let you get your passport, especially when you can show you need the passport to work.

65. CAN THERE BE MULTIPLE ORDERS?

No, only one controlling order can exist.

66. CAN MINOR PARENTS BE ORDERED TO PAY?

Yes, teen parents must support their children for a smaller amount of support to help make sure they finish school. But they usually need a "next friend" to appear in court with them, usually their parent (the baby's grandparent).

67. IN AN INTERSTATE SITUATION, WHERE DO I FILE FOR A MODIFICATION?

In the state with continuing jurisdiction unless both parties have left that state.

68. CAN THE OTHER PARENT REQUEST REVIEW IF MY INCOME INCREASES?

Usually they need to wait the 3 years, unless there's a "significant" change in your income that constitutes a material and substantial change in circumstance.

69. WHAT ABOUT NON-CASH BENEFITS I RECEIVE?

Non-cash benefits can be assigned values to calculate support. Like the value of a company car for example that frees the obligor from having to pay for a personal vehicle. But every non-cash benefit is unique so it depends, and usually something that can be worked out at mediation.

70. WHAT IF I BECOME DISABLED?

You can request modification based on changed circumstances but must usually prove disability from a government agency. Doctors letters are not enough.

71. WHAT IF THE RECEIVING PARENT DIES?

Support typically ends unless a new non-parent conservator with the right to receive support is appointed. This is usually because the child automatically goes to live with the living parent conservator so support stops.

72. DOES THE CP'S PERSONAL OR FAMILY WEALTH MATTER?

No. Your duty exists regardless of their financial situation, although there are always exceptions made by courts.

73. WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT?

Your child's benefits credit toward support; you may owe additional amount.

74. CAN I GO TO JAIL FOR NON-PAYMENT?

Yes, usually up to 180 days per violation for non-payment.

75. WHAT IF GENETIC TESTING IS REFUSED?

A parent ordered to complete testing but who refuses can be punished or sometimes even "deemed" a parent.

76. CAN GAMBLING WINNINGS BE TAKEN?

Yes, large winnings can be intercepted and used toward child support arrears debt.

77. CAN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HANDLE VISITATION ISSUES?

The Attorney General only touches visitation in the initial order establishing custody and support, or when there's a "change of status" modification where they are flipping custody by agreement. Otherwise the parents must handle visitation issues themselves or through a private attorney.

78. WHAT IF BOTH PARENTS LEAVE TEXAS AFTER AN ORDER IS DONE?

While the Texas court may still remain the court with exclusive jurisdiction on paper, the court will likely not be able to do much until a new court takes over the case, depending on what needs to be done, such as a modification or enforcement.

79. WHAT IF I APPLY FOR DISABILITY?

Child Support will continue during the application process; but you can modify after approval if an approval is warranted in your case.

80. DOES THE NCP STILL NEED TO PAY SUPPORT DURING THE EXTENDED SUMMER VISITATION PERIOD?

Yes, regular support still continues.

81. CAN VA BENEFITS BE GARNISHED?

Yes, veterans benefits can be garnished for support.

82. HOW IS THE CP PAID?

Yes, the CP can contact the state disbursement unit to set up direct deposit or get the funds in a visa card.

83. WHAT IF MY CHILD LIVES WITH GRANDPARENTS?

If custody formally goes to the grandparents, then both parents may be ordered to pay support to them. Or if it's only temporary, support can be redirected to the grandparent, such as when the CP is going to be absent from the child but the child will not go to the NCP to live.

84. CAN YOU PLACE LIENS ON INJURY SETTLEMENTS?

Yes, liens can be placed against personal injury settlements.

85. CAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL SUPPORT BE REVIEWED EARLIER THAN THE 3 YEARS?

Yes, if there's a significant change in insurance availability or cost.

86. WHAT IF I WIN THE LOTTERY?

Large winnings can be intercepted for current and past-due support.

87. DO STEP-CHILDREN AFFECT SUPPORT?

No, only your biological or legally adopted children count.

88. WHAT ABOUT IF I GET SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT INCOME SUCH AS DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

The law averages your annual income for monthly payments to account for your highs and lows during the year.

89. WHAT IF MY CHILD DROPS OUT OF SCHOOL?

Although your support payments continue until the child is legally emancipated, you may consider going to court to try to change custody to address the real underlying issue of the child not in school.

90. DO I HAVE TO PAY DURING BANKRUPTCY?

Yes, support continues during your bankruptcy proceedings.

91. WHAT IF I'M ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION?

Workers comp is eligible for support and can be garnished up to 50% for support.

92. CAN SUPPORT BE MODIFIED RETROACTIVELY?

No, modifications only affect future payments, so be quick when filing to modify in order to prevent non-guideline child support amounts from accruing too high.

93. WHAT ABOUT OVERTIME THAT VARIES?

Regular overtime always counts, but sporadic overtime might not, although it may depend on the court to determine what "sporadic" means.

94. WHAT IF I WORK MULTIPLE JOBS?

All income from all jobs is considered, although usually one will need to pay out if it will cover the monthly payment amounts.

95. CAN THE COURT IMPUTE INCOME TO ME?

Yes, if you're intentionally unemployed or underemployed.

96. WHAT IF I GET PAID IN CASH TIPS?

You must report all income, including cash tips.

97. DO TRAVEL ALLOWANCES COUNT?

Yes, if they exceed actual expenses and become income to you.

98. CAN MY BUSINESS EXPENSES REDUCE SUPPORT?

Yes, but only legitimate and necessary business expenses count, especially most of those listed on IRS Form Schedule C.

99. WHAT IF I OWE THOUSANDS IN BACK CHILD SUPPORT, WHAT CAN I DO?

Pay it all, release it all, or negotiate a reduced amount and repay that, whether in lump sum or repayment plan.

100. IS THERE INTEREST ON UNPAID CHILD SUPPORT?

Yes, both to incentivize speedy repayment and to address the fact the CP effectively "loaned" the NCP his non-payment value by supporting the child alone, and no loan is without interest.

101. WHAT ARE THE UIFSA AND UCCJEA?

Acronyms for the 2 federal rules incorporated into each state's family law that govern how child support and custody laws are applied when CPs and NCPs live in different states, especially relating to jurisdiction disputes.

102. WHAT ARE ASSIGNED ARREARS?

Money owed to the state, not just to the CP, that are not released in any negotiation.

103. WHAT IS A CONFIRMATION OF ARREARS?

A formal court order that confirms officially what an NCP owes to the CP as of a specific date, whether or not there is a payment plan. Example: John Doe is confirmed to owe Jane Doe \$10,000.00 as of 1/1/2000 and will repay it back at \$100.00 per month until paid in full.

104. DO BONUSES COUNT TOWARD SUPPORT?

Yes, regular bonuses are included in calculations when determining income, unless you can show it's a random sporadic bonus that happened one time.

105. CAN I BE JAILED FOR NOT PAYING CHILD SUPPORT?

Yes, for up to 180 days per violation. However, first time offenders are usually placed on a type of probation where their jail sentence is suspended for up to 10 years to allow them to pay down their debt.

106. WHAT IF I'M ON A SUSPENDED COMMITMENT BUT STILL DO NOT PAY?

An NCP out of compliance risks his suspended jail sentence being revoked and going to jail.

107. WHAT ABOUT RENT FROM INVESTMENT PROPERTY?

Yes, rental income is included in support calculations.

108. WHAT IF THERE IS A CHILD SUPPORT LIEN ON MY HOME AND I NEED TO SELL IT?

When a child support lien has attached to real estate, the title company usually wants the lien released before sale. They can also payoff the lienholder CP for the full or agreed partial amount by listing her as a payee in the closing documents.

109. DO GIFTS COUNT AS INCOME?

No. However the dispute usually arises where 1 parent says a payment was a gift and the other says it was for child support. The court may be asked to sort it out based on the facts.

110. WHAT IF I'M BETWEEN JOBS?

Child support continues. The obligor can file for modification if needed.

111. WHAT ABOUT RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS?

While mandatory contributions may reduce net income, voluntary ones do not.

112. DO UNION DUES AFFECT CALCULATIONS?

Yes, your union dues are credited to further reduce your net income when calculating support.

113. WHAT IF I RECEIVE ALIMONY?

Alimony received is counted as income for support.

114. CAN SUPPORT TAKE MY WHOLE PAYCHECK?

No, only 50% of your net paycheck net income is typically withheld.

115. WHAT IF THE NCP MOVES TO ANOTHER COUNTRY AFTER AN ORDER IS DONE IN TX?

Your support obligation continues, although depending on the country, if you don't pay, international enforcement might be possible.

116. WHAT IF MY INCOME VARIES MONTHLY?

Whenever possible, child support should be calculated on an annual basis and then divided by 12 months to get a monthly average gross income. Averaging accounts for the highs and lows of varied monthly.

117. WHAT ABOUT PER DIEM PAYMENTS?

Per diem payments can count as income provided they exceed the expenses the per diem is supposed to cover.

118. WHAT IF I RECEIVE A SIGNING BONUS?

While such one time payments are usually not counted when calculating ongoing child support, if it's a significant amount, it can be prorated for support by dividing the amount out as income to apply to each month.

119. WHAT IF THE CHILD IS DISABLED, DOES CHILD SUPPORT EVER END?

As long as a finding of disability is made before the child's 18th birthday confirming they can't self-support as an adult, an NCP can be ordered to pay indefinite child support until modified.

120. WHEN DOES GUARDIANSHIP COME UP?

If the parents failed to get a disability finding before the child's 18th birthday and the family court loses jurisdiction over indefinite support, the probate court may be able to help with a guardianship.

121. WHO CAN CLAIM THE CHILD ON TAXES?

The parent possessing the child with at least 51% of a year usually gets to claim the child. Parents agreeing to 50-50 possession usually elect to claim alternate years.

122. CAN MY BANK ACCOUNT BE FROZEN?

Yes, if you owe child support arrears a Financial Institution Data Match can result in your bank balance being impounded and routed to the Attorney General for release to the CP.

123. CAN MY PENSION BE GARNISHED?

Yes, retirement income can be garnished.

124. DO LOANS COUNT AS INCOME?

No, loans aren't counted as income.

125. DO FRINGE BENEFITS COUNT?

Yes, if they reduce living expenses.

126. ARE MILITARY ALLOWANCES CONSIDERED INCOME?

Yes, BAH and BAS allowances count as income and their values added back into your income.

127. CAN SUPPORT BE PAID IN PROPERTY?

While parents can sometimes agree for payment to be made in kind, it will usually have enforceability problems. The expected way is to pay money through the State SDU.

128. CAN MY IRA BE TAKEN?

Yes, retirement accounts can be seized for arrears.

129. CAN MY TOOLS BE TAKEN?

Work tools are usually protected from seizure.

130. DO STEP-CHILDREN AFFECT SUPPORT?

No, only your biological or legally adopted children count.

131. WHAT IS THE CHILD SUPPORT REVIEW PROCESS?

The process where parents are invited to the field office, either in person or virtual, to establish or modify a court order so that the parties do not have to attend court. This is similar to mediation but lacks the protection of mediation since there is no neutral party (the OAG represents the State of Texas). Additionally, a nonparticipating party can have an "agreement" done behind their back if they are noticed but opt not to appear.

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ACRONYMS

- AAG - Assistant Attorney General
- AOP - Acknowledgment of Paternity
- BAH - Basic Allowance for Housing
- BAS - Basic Allowance for Subsistence
- CP - Custodial Parent
- CSO - Child Support Officer
- FIDM - Financial Institution Data Match
- IRA - Individual Retirement Account
- MSA - Mediated Settlement Agreement
- NCP - Non-Custodial Parent
- OAG - Office of the Attorney General
- SDU - State Disbursement Unit
- SSDI - Social Security Disability Insurance
- SSI - Supplemental Security Income
- TANF - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- UIFSA - Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
- UCCJEA - Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
- VA - Veterans Affairs

TOP TX CHILD SUPPORT LAW QUESTIONS ANSWERED PROVIDES QUICK ANSWERS TO THE MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY PARENTS TO A CHILD SUPPORT LAWYER.

