Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation Liens

California's Child Support Program: A Resource for Parents

If you owe back child support and collect income from a workers' compensation award or a personal injury settlement, we may place a lien on your settlement. A lien is a legal claim placed on your property to pay off a debt.

- **Why does my insurance settlement have a lien against it?**
  If you are entitled to insurance payments for workers' compensation or a personal injury settlement, life insurance or annuity, and owe current or past due child support, the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) can intercept your payments and place a lien against any final settlement you receive. All funds received will be applied to your past due child support. Child support intercepts workers' compensation temporary disability benefits up to 25% of temporary disability benefits.

- **How do I know if my insurance payment has a lien against it?**
  When a lien is placed against your insurance settlement, the Child Support Lien Network (CSLN) will generate an "Earnings Withholding Order" that will be sent to your insurance company.

- **What do I do now that a lien is in place?**
  If a lien is placed against your insurance settlement, it is important that you contact your local child support agency (LCSA) as soon as possible. A representative from the LCSA will discuss your options and work with you to determine the best resolution based on your individual case. If you are represented by an attorney, you should contact your attorney's office directly.

For more information, contact your local child support office: 1 (866) 901-3212 **or TTY:** 1 (866) 399-4096
https://childsupport.ca.gov/

Child Support Directors Association
A Coalition of Experts Collecting Billions for California's Children

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