Helpful Hints for In-Person Court Appearances

California's Child Support Program: A Resource for Parents

We understand that appearing for court may be confusing and intimidating. We hope the following hints will help prepare you for your in-person court date.

- **Be Punctual** - Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled court hearing. If you are not in the courtroom on time, your case may be resolved without your input, or your hearing could be cancelled.
- **Arrange for Childcare** - Children are generally not allowed in the courtroom. Please arrange for childcare prior to your court date.
- **Bring Paperwork** - Carefully review and complete all required paperwork prior to arriving at court. Bring updated verification of your income and proof of your cost for childcare and medical insurance.
- **Dress Appropriately -** Choose clothing for court as if you were dressing for a job interview.
- **Turn Off Cell Phones -** While in the courtroom turn off cell phones and all other electronic devices.
- **Prepare to Stay All Day -**Sometimes the court is busy with many hearings. Be prepared to stay for the entire day.
- **Respect the Court** - You will have the opportunity to speak to the child support commissioner. This is your chance to explain your situation. Do not direct your comments to the other party, or interrupt anyone while others are speaking.

It is important that you attend your scheduled hearing. The child support attorneys do not represent either party. No one except you or your attorney may represent you in court.

Every court has a family law facilitator to provide child support information and help parents obtain and complete court forms at no cost. Contact information is available on the internet at: Family Law Facilitators - getting_started_selfhelp (ca.gov)

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

Published: Dec. 2023
2150 River Plaza Dr Ste 420 Sacramento, CA 95833
www.csda.org | (916) 446-6700