Expectations When Working with Employers

California's Child Support Program: A Resource for Parents

California Family Code section 5230 requires that all child support orders include a wage assignment. The wage assignment requires the employer to deduct child support owed from your paycheck and forward the money to the State Disbursement Unit.

- **How the Employer is Notified of a Withholding Obligation**

  A wage assignment may be issued either by the court or from the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS). After the amount of child support is set, a wage assignment will be mailed to your employer with instructions on how much support to deduct and where to send the payment. The employer must deduct child support payments directly from your salary and wages.

  If you are self-employed, you are still obligated to deduct the child support amount from your wages as directed in the wage assignment.

- **Processing the Order**

  Generally, an employer may not take more than 50% of your net earnings after taxes. If you do not have sufficient earnings to satisfy the wage withholding, the deductions will be taken in the following sequence:

  1. Child, family and/or spousal support owed in the current month.
  2. Health premiums and/or other current medical support owed in the current month.
  3. Past due child support.
  4. Any remaining amounts ordered.

- **How to Modify a Wage Assignment**

  If you disagree with or want to change the withholding amount, contact your local child support agency. Call: 1(866) 901-3212/TTY1(866) 399-4096, or visit: https://childsupport.ca.gov.

- **Terminating/Suspending a Wage Assignment**

  Once your employer receives your wage assignment, income withholding will continue until you are no longer employed or until your employer is notified by DCSS to terminate or suspend the withholding.

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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