# Your Obligation to Provide Medical Support

## California's Child Support Program: A Resource for Parents

The mission of the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is to enhance the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of families by providing professional services to locate parents, establish paternity and enforce orders for financial and medical support. Parents and employers are key partners in ensuring that adequate medical support is provided for your child.

- **Why does DCSS require me to provide medical support?**

  Federal and state law requires both parents to provide medical support for their children. DCSS is mandated to establish and enforce child support and medical support orders based on both parents' income and the amount of time each parent spends with the child.

- **How much will it cost me?**

  Based on California law, health insurance is considered a reasonable cost if adding a child or children to the policy will not exceed 5% of the Parent Paying Support's gross income. Contact your employer to determine the cost to add your children. If health insurance is not available through your employer, you can look to obtain health insurance through non-employer sponsored programs to satisfy the terms of your court order.

- **What happens if I lose my job?**

  Inform your local child support agency if you lose your job. You may be eligible for a modification of your child support order based on your change of circumstances. If you lose your job, there are other programs that may be able to provide you and your children with health insurance.

### Five Reasons Why Children Should Have Health Insurance[1]:

Children with insurance are more likely to have access to preventative care.

Insured children are better equipped to do well in school.[2]

Insured children are healthier and live longer lives.[3]

Children with insurance are more likely to have a consistent source of medical care.

Health insurance helps improve social and emotional development.

1 "Why Do School Aged Children Need Health Insurance?" Campaign for Children's Health Care (2007)
2 Why Health Insurance Matters for Children, Washington: Campaign for Children's Health Care (Jun. 2006), pp. 1.
3 Bovbjerg, Randall and Hadley, Jack "Why Health Insurance is Important" The Urban Institute (Nov. 2007)

**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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