How is the Amount of My Child Support Determined?

California's Child Support Program: A Resource for Parents

The amount of child support the parents are required to pay is determined by a "Statewide Uniform Guideline Formula". California courts, local child support agencies and private attorneys all use this formula to set the legal amount of child support.

The guideline child support formula takes the following factors into account:

- **Income**

  Both parents' gross income from any source including income from salaries, unemployment benefits, rental income, self-employment and some social security or disability insurance benefits is used in the child support calculation.

  Mandatory union dues, retirement contributions, health insurance and child and/or spousal support paid for separate relationships are deducted from the parents' income.

- **Timeshare Factor**

  Spending time taking care of the child is considered to be support for the child. The court or the local child support agency uses the time each parent spends with the child as a factor in the child support calculation, which impacts the amount of child support ordered.

- **Other Factors**

The courts or local child support agency may also consider job related expenses, extraordinary health expenses and the minimum basic living expenses of either parent's child from another relationship who lives with the parent in calculating support if these create an undue hardship.

FAQs

Is my current spouse's income included in the child support order?

Except in extraordinary cases, the income of the current spouse is NOT considered when determining or modifying child support.

Will my child support be reduced because I am paying for another child?

Any child or spousal support payment that is being paid for another child or spouse may be deducted from your income used to calculate child support. You will be asked by the court or the local child support agency for proof of these payments.

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: Jun. 2024
2150 River Plaza Dr Ste 420 Sacramento, CA 95833
www.csda.org | (916) 446-6700