Modifying Your Child Support Order

California's Child Support Program: A Resource for Parents

Have you lost your job, had your income reduced or experienced other financial changes in your life? Has custody or visitation time changed? If so, local child support agencies (LCSAs) are ready to help you.

How do I get my child support order modified or changed?

- Contact your local child support agency immediately to begin the process.
- A new court order must be signed by a judge to change your child support amount. It does not happen automatically if you lose your job or other circumstances change.
- Your child support amount can also be changed by written agreement (stipulation) between you, the local child support agency, and the other parent.
- You may also contact the Family Law Facilitator in your county or file your own motion to modify support in the Family Law Court.

What do I need to provide?

For a local child support agency to review your case for modification, you will need to provide current financial information such as:

- Income and expenses (including 1099 if self-employed)
- Childcare expenses
- Medical insurance
- Disability (SSI, SDI, SSA, etc.)
- Unemployment benefits/severance package
- Retirement income
- Custody and visitation arrangements

How long should I wait for a modification?

You should begin the process as soon as your financial circumstances change.

The modification process can take up to 6 months.

When should I consider a modification?

You can ask for a modification if one or more of the following circumstances change:

- Your income or the other parent's income increases or decreases.
- The custody or visitation agreement changes.
- You become disabled.
- You are deployed to active military duty.
- You are incarcerated or institutionalized.

When you request a modification the amount of child support ordered may go up or down depending on your situation. For more information on how child support is calculated, see our fact sheet "How is the Amount of my Child Support Determined" on the CSDA website at: http://www.csdaca.org/factsheets.aspx.

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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