Bank Levies on Child Support Arrears

California's Child Support Program: A Resource for Parents

Under California law, past due child support (arrears) is subject to collection through bank levies. Even if you are making regular child support payments, if you owe child support arrears, the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is required to collect using several enforcement remedies including the use of the bank levies.

- **How often will DCSS levy my account?**
  Levies are generated by the child support automated system on all cases that meet the criteria. Automated bank levies are no longer issued on compliant cases; however, DCSS has the discretion to manually to issue a bank levy.

- **How much money will be withdrawn from my bank account?**
  If you are not compliant with your child support order, the entire balance (up to the amount of total child support arrears due) can be withdrawn. The bank will send all the money to DCSS, up to the total amount of your arrears balance.

- **Once my account has been levied, would DCSS consider my current situation?**
  If full payment of the arrears balance due will create an undue hardship, or if you have already paid the amount due, contact us immediately. You have a right to request an administrative review. If you are not satisfied with the administrative review, you have a right to request a Claim of Exemption to have the court review your claim.

- **How long are my accounts frozen?**
  When the bank receives the levy, they place a hold on the funds for 10 business days. After 10 business days, the money (up to the total amount stated on the levy) is sent to DCSS and the account hold is removed. A withdrawal notice must be provided to the bank within 10 days in order for the funds to be released to the account holder.

- **Will the bank charge me a fee?**
  Yes, most banks will charge a fee for every levy they receive. The fees can range from $25.00 to $150.00 depending on the bank. The fees are set by the bank. The bank will charge you a fee whether or not any money is sent to DCSS. DCSS has no control over the fees charged by your bank. DCSS cannot reimburse the bank fees.

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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