Importance of Paying Child Support From The Beginning

California's Child Support Program: A Resource for Parents

California law states that both parents are mutually responsible for the support of their child. By paying child support in a timely manner, your child's future will be more secure with a greater likelihood that they will succeed.

- **Every child has the right to be supported by their parents**:
  - Until the age of 18, unless the child marries, becomes legally emancipated; or,
  - Until the child finishes high school or reaches age 19, whichever comes first.

- **If you pay your support in a timely manner and do not owe past due child support:**
  - You will not have to pay interest on past due child support.
  - Your IRS, state tax refunds and lottery winnings may not be intercepted.
  - The funds in your bank account will not be taken.
  - Your business and other professional license(s) will not be suspended.
  - The court will not force you to seek work or hold you in contempt.

Although the wage garnishment (Income Withholding Order) takes effect immediately, it may take some time for the employer to process and send the first payment. **To be sure past due child support and interest do not accrue, payment should be made by the parent owing support until the wage withholding goes into effect.**

Impact of a Parent's Involvement With Their Child[1]:

- Child performs better in school:
  - Improved grades
  - Child is less likely to be expelled and/or repeat grades
  - Improved math and verbal skills
- Improved emotional development
- Greater level of curiosity

1"Father Involvement in Children's Education, Care and Support" National Child Care Information and Assistance Center, Administration for Children and Families (2011)

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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