# Where Does Your Child Support Go?

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

Child support paid by Parents Paying Support (PPS) helps California children and families to remain self-sufficient. The support payments also go toward recovering money owed to the state for funds expended by the government for a child receiving public assistance.

**The following are questions you may have if you are a Parent Paying Support (PPS)**

- **Where does my child support go?**
  If your child is not receiving public assistance, the payment goes to the Party Receiving Support (PRS). If your child is receiving public assistance, the payment is applied to recover the funds expended by the government.

- **I pay $400 each month, why does the Party Receiving Support (PRS) receive only $100?**
  When a child is receiving public assistance, the PRS is entitled to receive up to $ $100 or $200 for families with two or more children (called a "disregard") from the total child support paid for the month. The rest of the child support amount goes towards recovering public assistance funds.

- **Why does my past due balance go up? I make a payment each month towards my past due balance.**
  Pursuant to California law, if you owe past due child support, 10% annual interest is charged. If the past due child support balance is high enough, the monthly amount of interest charged will be more than the amount you pay each month.

- **The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) intercepted my IRS tax refund, and the custodial party did not receive anything. Where did my money go?**
  IRS tax intercepts are applied to past due support only, not to the current child support owed. If there is a past due balance owed to the State, then that is paid first. The remaining IRS collection would be disbursed to the PRS for any past due child support.

### Why Does it Cost So Much to Raise a Child?

Money is Needed For:

- Housing
- Utilities
- Clothing/Diapers
- Meals/Formula
- Childcare
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Dental/Medical Expenses
- Transportation
- Education
- Miscellaneous Items

### Average Annual Cost to Raise a Child[1]:

$12,600 to 13,9001
"Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015" USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnpp

**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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