

CHILD SUPPORT INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS CHILD SUPPORT - Child Support is money provided for the care of a child by a parent(s) who does not live with the child. Child Support may include health care coverage, reimbursement of medical expenses, or childcare costs.

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO APPLY FOR CHILD SUPPORT - To receive cash assistance benefits, **you must apply for child support.** You are required to cooperate with establishing paternity and obtaining support for your child(ren). If you do not cooperate, your cash assistance benefits will be reduced by 25 percent. When you apply for cash assistance benefits, you must provide the county assistance office the name, address and all other information you have about the noncustodial parent. The county assistance office will forward this information to the Domestic Relations Section (DRS) of the County Court of Common Pleas. The Domestic Relations Section will schedule an appointment for you to be interviewed. It is important to keep your scheduled appointment at the Domestic Relations Section.

WHAT IF I OR MY CHILD(REN) IS A VICTIM OR SURVIVOR OF DOMESTIC OR FAMILY VIOLENCE - If you or your child(ren) is a victim or survivor of domestic or family violence, you may request a good cause waiver. If your request is approved, you will not be required to apply for child support. Your case worker will explain good cause to you and provide a Support and Good Cause Notice for you to sign.

- **DRS will contact you for support cooperation against the absent relative(s) of the child(ren) for which there is no child support good cause waiver.**

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS SECTION – Domestic Relations Section staff will help you get child support for your child(ren). The court will determine how much child support the noncustodial parent is ordered to pay. If you do not understand what you are told, ask questions. If you walk into the Domestic Relations Section without a scheduled appointment, be patient as Domestic Relations Section staff may not be able to meet with you immediately.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU AT THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS SECTION - You must cooperate with the Domestic Relations Section, and you will be expected to:

- Answer all questions asked.
- Provide the following information:
 - Name of the noncustodial parent.
 - Noncustodial parent's current address.
 - Social security number of noncustodial parent.
 - Date of birth of noncustodial parent.
 - Employer or source of income.
- Sign legal forms.
- Return to the Domestic Relations Section for an additional interview if required.
- Appear as a witness at the court or other hearings/proceedings as necessary.
- Keep all appointments.

Take the following to the Domestic Relations Section **for all persons for whom support is being sought.**

1. Social security cards or numbers.
2. Birth certificates.
3. Marriage licenses or certificates.
4. Divorce papers.
5. Driver's licenses, owners cards/title.
6. Benefit papers (veteran's, disability, retirement, social security, etc.).
7. Military discharge (DD214) of noncustodial parent and/or yourself (if appropriate).
8. Wage statements or pay stubs for you and the noncustodial parent.
9. Court documents of any kind such as: support order, visitation order, Acknowledgement of Paternity form, custody order, divorce order, and/or protection from abuse order.

WHAT IS ESTABLISHING PATERNITY - Establishing paternity is the legal process of determining the father of a child born to unmarried parents. Paternity must be established before you can receive child support. The Domestic Relations Section worker will help you through the process by asking you for information about the child's father. Genetic testing may be required if the man you name denies that he is the child(ren)'s father.

BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING PATERNITY

- Your child's birth certificate will show the name of the father.
- Your child may receive money from the father that he/she is entitled to such as child support or upon the death or disability of the father, an inheritance from his estate or Social Security benefits.
- Your child may become eligible for benefits from the father such as medical insurance coverage, access to his medical health records if a genetic health problem should arise or U.S. Military benefits, as well as other benefits.
- Your child may be given the opportunity to know the identity of his/her father.

COOPERATION - To "cooperate" means you must attend all scheduled appointments and hearings and provide information requested by the person from the county assistance office and the Domestic Relations Section who interviews you. The Domestic Relations Section will notify the county assistance office if you are uncooperative.