



General information about the
Child Support Program
mdhs.ms.gov/child-support/

Parents who receive support can access
account balances, transaction histories, and
make changes to their epayment account at
no charge here:
eppicard.com

Parents who pay support can find
information about payment options here:
mdhs.ms.gov/child-support/

**For additional information,
please call:**

877.882.4916



THE CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM:

Children benefit when they are supported by both parents. The Child Support Program helps fathers establish paternity, and assists custodial parents by working to ensure they receive regular, dependable, financial and medical support for their children.

WHAT IS THE CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM?





WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Those participating in certain public assistance programs (TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, or Foster Care) are automatically enrolled in the Child Support Program and will be contacted to begin services. If you are not receiving these benefits, the Program also serves:

Custodial parents (CP): the person who has primary physical custody of the child(ren)

Noncustodial parent (NCP): parents who do not have primary physical custody of the child(ren)

Non-public assistance residents can apply for services at any local Child Support office or by completing and mailing an application found at www.mdhs.ms.gov/child-support.

A \$25 application fee must also be included with the completed application.

Parents who receive support may also be subject to an annual \$35 fee if the case meets certain criteria.

PATERNITY: LEGAL FATHER

ESTABLISHING PATERNITY
PROVIDES MANY BENEFITS
FOR BOTH THE PARENTS
AND THE CHILD(REN)

HOW IS PATERNITY ESTABLISHED?

Marriage: If a married couple has children, the husband is presumed to be the legal father.

Paternity is established by the birth of a child to a married couple.

A Simple Acknowledgment of Paternity (ASAP):

It is a voluntary form, often completed at the hospital, which is signed by both the mother and the father and is filed with the birth certificate.

Court: If an ASAP has not been signed, an unmarried father can have legal paternity established by a court order. The Child Support program can assist either parent in completing this process, which may include DNA testing.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

Locate: If you do not know where the other parent is, the Child Support Program can assist you in locating him or her.

Paternity: The legal father of children born to married parents is presumed to be the husband. For unmarried parents, in order to enjoy the same legal relationship, paternity must be established. The Child Support Program can assist you in establishing paternity.

Support Order: The Child Support Program will petition the court to establish a monthly support amount, including medical support.

Collection and Disbursement: Child Support obligations are ordinarily paid through wage withholding orders. The money is collected and distributed to the appropriate party, and accurate payment records are maintained.

Enforcement: If the noncustodial parent fails to pay, a variety of enforcement tools are at the Child Support Program's disposal. These include tax refund intercepts, license suspension, passport denial, credit reporting, seizure of bank accounts and other assets, and, potentially, incarceration. The Program will determine which enforcement remedies are appropriate.

