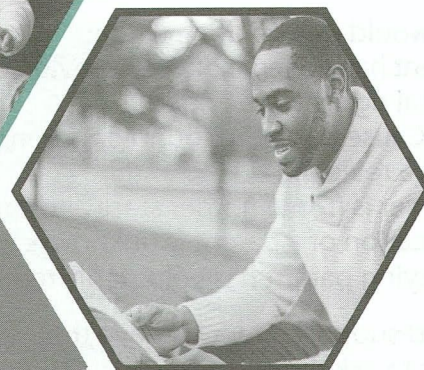
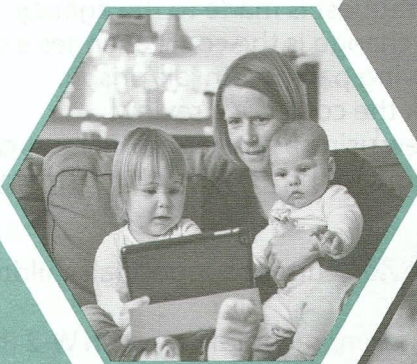


Guide to Changing and Ending Child Support



- The change in the child support amount would be less than 15% of the current order, and the difference is less than \$50/month.

If the child support agency staff conducts the review and finds that a change is warranted, they might draft a legal agreement and ask both parents to sign it. The legal agreement is filed with the court; after the court approves the change will take effect. If a parent does not agree to the agreement, the child support agency might ask the court to change the order. If the court reviews the order, the court will decide whether or not to change the order.

If Two Parents Agree to Change the Amount of Support

The Office of State Courts offers an online form (FA-604-Stipulation and Order to Amend Judgement for Support) that parents can sign and file with the court for approval. The legal agreement will take effect when the court approves it. Links to court forms are online at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cs/resources/court>.

If you receive services from your local child support agency, the agency **must** approve the terms of the agreement before you submit the papers to the court. It is also important to inform the agency of the terms approved by the court.

Information to Remember

Only a Court can Change a Support Order

Child support agencies cannot change a court order. The agency might draw up an agreement for parents to sign, but the court has to approve the agreement. Changes do not start until the court has signed the order.

Notices are Mailed

Review notices are sent by mail to the address listed with the parent's child support agency. Parents can update their addresses by contacting their local agency or online at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cs/parent-rights/updates>.

Child Support Attorneys

Attorneys represent the interests of the state, they do not represent either parent. Child support attorneys will attend review hearings for cases in which a parent receives cash benefits.

Fees

Child support agencies **do not** charge for reviewing the court order or for taking steps to change an existing order. Most courts charge a \$30 filing fee for hearings to review or change a support order. The fees are charged to the parent asking for the review or change. No fee is charged if the parent or guardian receives cash benefits from the W-2, SSI Caretaker Supplement, or Kinship Care programs. Some courts do not charge a filing fee for a legal agreement.

Income for Child Support

The court may use the parent's gross income, ability to earn, or the income available for support.

Gross income: all income and earnings from all sources and may or may not be taxable. Income can be in the form of money, property, or services. It does not include money received from W-2 or SSI.

Ability to earn: considers the parent's job and wage history, health, education, and available job openings.

Income available for support: the gross income minus support for earlier obligations such as an order to support another family.

Dollar Amount Orders

Order for families getting services from their local child support agency must be stated in dollar amounts (such as \$300 each month). The dollar amount is based on the Percentage of Income Standards.

Ending Child Support

Under Wisconsin law, a parent's duty to support his or her child continues until age 18, or age 19 if the child is still enrolled in high school or working on a high school equivalency course (GED).

