

Child Support:

Apply for free legal aid online at MontanaLawHelp.org or call/text Kaia, YHDP Coordinator, at (406) 594-1971



Children deserve to be supported. Child support can help cover the cost of necessities and extracurricular activities.

How can I start the process of obtaining support for my children?

In every dissolution of marriage and parenting plan case, the parents are expected to develop a plan that explains how much time the children will spend with each parent. The parenting time and income of the parents will set the amount the court will grant in child support.

Montana Child Support Enforcement Services Division (CSSD) is an agency that works to improve the economic stability of families through the establishment and enforcement of child support. They help with locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing financial and medical support orders, and enforcing the orders.

Apply online: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/cssd/>

Child Support Guidelines:

The court or CSSD will order a child support amount that is reasonable given the amount of income available and the cost of caring for children.

The considerations for support are:

- The financial resources available to the child
- The financial resources available to each parent (income, pensions, etc.)
- The standard of living the child would have had if the parents were still together
- The child's emotional, educational, and medical needs
- The age of the child
- The cost of daycare
- How much time the child spends with each parent

Support amounts may need to be recalculated when either of the parents experience a significant change in their financial situation or the parenting schedule changes.

Please, contact MLSA for additional information and assistance.

Find child support information on: MontanaLawHelp.org & child support forms on: courts.mt.gov

Know this:

Even in cases where a parent skips payments, the need to pay that support does not go away. The support amount may continue to accrue until all payments are made current. A child's needs must be met, even in months when support is not paid.

Tribal communities may have different ways of establishing child support. If you are a tribal member living in a tribal community, call MLSA for advice on your specific situation.

How can MLSA help me?

MLSA provides FREE legal information, forms, advice, and representation to eligible clients.

MLSA's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinator can provide you with referrals to agencies in your community and link you with free civil legal assistance.

Have more questions about your legal rights? Visit: MontanaLawHelp.org

