

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.

- Kathy Davis

YOUR KIDS NEED TO KNOW

They need you now more than ever. The bottom line is that children who have the support of both of their parents are less likely to:

- ✓ Be financially disadvantaged
- ✓ Drop out of school
- ✓ Use drugs
- ✓ Become a teen parent

In North Carolina, all child support orders are issued by a court. However, parents do not have to appear before a judge if they agree on the amount of child support that is based on the North Carolina Child Support Guidelines.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

We prefer to work with both parents to establish a child support order. By reaching an agreement that is based on the North Carolina Child Support Guidelines, a court hearing is not required.



The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Moore County Child Support

**Mail Address: PO Drawer 370
Carthage, NC 28327**

**Physical Address: 202 S. Ray St,
Carthage, NC**

910-947-2118

www.ncchildsupport.com

ESTABLISHING AN ORDER TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT

Here's What You Need to Know



**Moore County Child Support
Enforcement**

*"Making a difference in the lives of the
children we serve"*

ESTABLISHING AN ORDER TO PAY SUPPORT

CHILD SUPPORT BASICS

In North Carolina, state law requires that child support is determined by a formula called the North Carolina Child Support Guidelines (NC GS § 50-13.4). The guidelines assume that the child should receive the same proportion of each parent's income as if they lived together. The guidelines are designed to meet the needs of children while being fair to both parents.

Child support orders indicate the amount of money that a non-custodial parent must pay. Computing the support involves the following steps:

1. Calculating the parents' total gross income; and
2. Calculating the percentage that each parent contributes to the total.

The result is the amount of the child support payment. The guidelines also take into account each additional child involved in a child support case, child care costs, and medical insurance costs for children in the order.

The court may also consider:

- ✓ All income of both parents, (except income from public assistance) and the income of a parent's current spouse;
- ✓ Other biological or adopted children, but not step-children.

You should also know that:

- ✓ The child support obligation has priority over most other financial obligations.
- ✓ If a parent is not employed or financial information is not available, minimum wage may be used to determine his or her income.
- ✓ In addition to setting child support, the order may require one or both parents to provide health insurance coverage for the children.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

The non-custodial parents are served with a Civil Summons and Complaint. They can respond to this document either by:

- ✓ Filing an answer;
- ✓ Providing financial information to the child support office prior to the hearing date and signing a voluntary support order;

- ✓ Getting an attorney who will help respond to the Complaint; or
- ✓ Appearing at a hearing.

If the non-custodial parent doesn't respond or appear in court when a hearing is set, the court can enter a default order. The court accepts the information contained in the Complaint to Establish Support as true and issues an order to pay child support based on that information.

