

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
Chapter 2: Administration of Child Welfare Section 20: Establishment of Child Support Orders		
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

Federal law says every state must help set up, change, and enforce child support and paternity. This is called the Title IV-D Program from the Social Security Act.

In Indiana, the program is run by the Department of Child Services (DCS) through the Child Support Bureau (CSB). Local prosecutors, clerks, and courts help carry it out, following Indiana laws.

POLICY STATEMENT

When the Program is Required to Help

The program must help in certain cases. One example is when a child is in foster care and gets help under another federal law called Title IV-E.

How the Program is Measured

The Federal government checks how well Indiana's child support program is working. It looks at five things:

1. Establishing paternity;
2. Establishing child support orders;
3. Collecting current child support;
4. Collecting past-due child support; and
5. Measuring how cost-effective the program is.

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will ask the court to create or change child support orders as needed when a child is removed from their home. A separate child support order will be created for each known parent who does not have custody of the child, if needed. When the Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case is closed, DCS will ask the court to decide what happens to any existing child support orders.

Note: This request should also be made for a youth who is a ward of DCS under a CHINS or Collaborative Care case.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-40-1-5: Obligation of parent or guardian for costs of placement; remittance of support payments; enforcement](#)
- [IC 31-30-1-12: Jurisdiction of child custody, parenting time, or child support proceeding in marriage dissolution; survival of order](#)
- [IC 31-25-4-7: Duties of bureau](#)

- [IC 31-25-4-13.1: Agreements with local government officials; contracting; attorney-client relationship; informing applicant; service level stipulation](#)
- [IC 31-14-11-5: Date for support obligation to begin](#)
- [IC 31-16-6-6: Termination of child support; emancipation; petition for educational needs](#)
- [42 USC 654: State plan for child and spousal support](#)
- [45 CFR 302.52: Distribution of support collected in Title IV-E foster care maintenance cases](#)