

How to Calculate Child Support Arrears

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Child Support Bureau

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Choosing the Right Instructions for Your Case

- **Basic Calculation from the Beginning** – Use these instructions if the court has never changed (raised or lowered) the current support amount and has never found that a specific amount of arrears are owed. (See page 2.)
- **When Arrears Amount was Set in Court** – Use these instructions if the court ever issued an order stating you are behind in child support (in arrears) by a certain amount. If the court has issued more than one order with a specific arrears amount, use the most recent order. (See page 5.)
- **When Current Support Amount was Changed** – Use these instructions if neither of the above conditions apply, but the court has changed (raised or lowered) the amount of current child support you must pay. (See page 8.)

The instructions and examples contained in this workbook are provided as a courtesy for individuals who wish to calculate child support arrears for their own information. The Department of Child Services' Child Support Bureau, Clerks of Court, and Prosecuting Attorneys do not take responsibility for, and are not bound by, any results produced by using these instructions.

Basic Calculation from the Beginning

What you need to get started:

1. The date your first child support payment was due.*
2. The amount of current child support you are ordered to pay.*
3. A record of all your payments.*
4. A calendar that goes back to the date your first payment was due. (See <https://stevemorse.org/jcal/perpetual.html>)
5. A calculator.

**Child support orders and payment histories may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court in the county where the order was issued. There may be a small charge for copies.*

Basic Calculation from the Beginning

Instructions:

1. Enter the date your first payment was due: 1. __/__/__

2. If you pay support weekly, count the number of weeks starting from the date on line 1: 2. _____

3. If you pay support monthly, count the number of months starting from the date on line 1: 3. _____

4. Enter the amount you are ordered to pay for current support (don't include any extra you are ordered to pay on arrears): 4. _____

5. **Current support due** - Multiply line 4 by line 2 or 3 (whichever applies): 5. _____

6. **Child support paid** –
 - a. Copy the date from line 1 above to the Payment History Worksheet, page 14, line 1.
 - b. Finish the Worksheet.
 - c. Enter the amount from line 5 of the Worksheet here: 6. _____

7. **Arrears owed** - Subtract line 6c from Line 5: 7. _____

EXAMPLE: Basic Calculation from the Beginning

Instructions:

1. Enter the date your first payment was due: 1. 10/24/2014

2. If you pay support weekly, count the number of weeks starting from the date on line 1: 2. 127

3. If you pay support monthly, count the number of months starting from the date on line 1: 3. _____

4. Enter the amount you are ordered to pay for current support (don't include any extra you are ordered to pay on arrears): 4. \$83

5. **Current support due** - Multiply line 4 by line 2 or 3 (whichever applies): 5. \$10,541

6. **Child support paid** –
 - a. Copy the date from line 1 above to the Payment History Worksheet, page 14, line 1.
 - b. Finish the Worksheet.
 - c. Enter the amount from line 5 of the Worksheet here: 6. \$9,545

7. **Arrears owed** - Subtract line 6c from Line 5: 7. \$996

Child Support Arrears Calculation - When Arrears Amount was Set in Court

Use these instructions if the court ever issued an order stating you are behind in child support (in arrears) by a certain amount. If the court has issued more than one order with a specific arrears amount, use the most recent order.

What you need to get started:

1. The most recent court order that shows the specific amount of child support arrears you owe.*
2. The amount of current child support you are ordered to pay.*
3. A record of all your payments made since the date of the order on line 1 above.*
4. A calendar that goes back to the date of the order on line 1 above. (See <https://stevemorse.org/jcal/perpetual.html>)
5. A calculator.

** Child support orders and payment histories may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court in the county where the order was issued. There may be a small charge for copies.*

Child Support Arrears Calculation - When Arrears Amount was Set in Court

Instructions:

1. Enter the most recent date the court found you owed arrears as of: 1. __/__/__

2. Enter the amount of arrears in the order: 2. _____

STOP: If the court issued another order after the date on line 1 that changed the amount of current child support, use instructions for When Current Support Amount was Changed on page 8 instead.

3. If you pay support weekly, count the number of weeks since the date on line 1: 3. _____

4. If you pay support monthly, count the number of months since the date on line 1: 4. _____

5. Enter the amount you are ordered to pay for current support: 5. _____

6. Multiply line 5 by line 3 or 4 (whichever applies): 6. _____

7. **Total amount due** – Add line 2 and line 6: 7. _____

8. **Child support paid** –

a. Copy the date from line 1 above to the

b. Payment History Worksheet, page 14, line 1.

c. Finish the Worksheet.

d. Enter the amount from line 5 of the

e. Worksheet here: 8. _____

9. **Arrears owed** - Subtract line 8c from line 7: 9. _____

EXAMPLE: Child Support Arrears Calculation - When Arrears Amount was Set in Court

Instructions:

1. Enter the most recent date the court found you owed arrears as of: 1. 7/17/2015
2. Enter the amount of arrears in the order: 2. \$1,286

STOP: If the court issued another order after the date on line 1 that changed the amount of current child support, use instructions for When Current Support Amount was Changed on page 8 instead.

3. If you pay support weekly, count the number of weeks since the date on line 1: 3. 87
4. If you pay support monthly, count the number of months since the date on line 1: 4. _____
5. Enter the amount you are ordered to pay for current support: 5. \$115
6. Multiply line 5 by line 3 or 4 (whichever applies): 6. \$10,005
7. **Total amount due** – Add line 2 and line 6: 7. \$11,291
8. **Child support paid** –
 - a. Copy the date from line 1 above to the
 - b. Payment History Worksheet, page 14, line 1.
 - c. Finish the Worksheet.
 - d. Enter the amount from line 5 of the
 - e. Worksheet here: 8. \$11,079
9. **Arrears owed** - Subtract line 8c from line 7: 9. \$212

Child Support Arrears Calculation – When Current Support Was Changed

Use these instructions if a court has changed (raised or lowered) the amount of current child support you pay.

What you need to get started:

1. The most recent court order that shows the specific amount of child support arrears you owe. (If the court has never issued an order finding you are in arrears by a certain amount, you will need the original court order for child support instead.)*
2. The court order that changed the current support amount.*
3. The amount of current child support you were ordered to pay originally.*
4. The amount of current child support you are ordered to pay now.*
5. A record of all your payments made since the date of the order on line 1 above.*
6. A calendar that goes back to the date of the order on line 1 above. (See <https://stevemorse.org/jcal/perpetual.html>)
7. A calculator.

**Child support orders and payment histories may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court in the county where the order was issued. There may be a small charge for copies.*

Child Support Arrears Calculation - When Current Support Was Changed

Instructions:

1. Enter the amount of current child support you were originally ordered to pay: 1. _____
2. Enter the date your first child support payment was due: 2. __/__/__
3. Enter the amount of current child support you are ordered to pay now: 3. _____
4. Enter the date the change took effect: 4. __/__/__
5. Has the court ever issued an order stating that you owed child support arrears?
If YES, continue to step 6.
If NO: a) enter the line 2 date on line 8,
b) enter the line 4 date on line 9,
c) skip to step 10.
6. Find the most recent court order that states the amount of arrears you owed. Enter the amount of arrears and the date as of which you owed them: 6a. _____
6b. __/__/__
7. Is the date on line 6b earlier than the date on line 4?
If YES: a) enter the line 6b date on line 8;
b) enter the line 4 date on line 9;
c) and skip to step 10.
If NO: a) enter the line 6b date on lines 8 & 9,
b) and skip to step 12.

Child Support Arrears Calculation - When Current Support Was Changed

8. Prior period start date: 8. __/__/__
9. Current period start date: 9. __/__/__
10. If you pay support weekly, count the number of weeks starting from the date on line 8 and ending with the *week before* the date on line 9. (If you are ordered to pay monthly, count the number of months instead.) 10. _____
11. Multiply line 10 by line 1: 11. _____
12. If you pay support weekly count the number of weeks starting from the date on line 9 and ending with the current week. (If you are ordered to pay support monthly, count the number of months instead: 12. _____
13. Multiply line 12 by line 3: 13. _____
14. **Total amount due** – Add lines 11, 13, and any amount on line 6a: 14. _____
15. **Child support paid** –
- a. Copy the date from line 8 above to the Payment History Worksheet, page 14, line 1.
 - b. Finish the Worksheet.
 - c. Enter the amount from line 5 of the Worksheet here: 15c. _____
16. **Arrears owed** – Subtract line 15c from line 14: 16. _____

EXAMPLE: Child Support Arrears Calculation - When Current Support Was Changed

Instructions:

1. Enter the amount of current child support you were originally ordered to pay: 1. \$138

2. Enter the date your first child support payment was due: 2. 3/02/2012

3. Enter the amount of current child support you are ordered to pay now: 3. \$96

4. Enter the date the change took effect: 4. 5/13/2016

5. Has the court ever issued an order stating that you owed child support arrears?
If YES, continue to step 6.
If NO: a) enter the line 2 date on line 8,
b) enter the line 4 date on line 9,
c) skip to step 10.

6. Find the most recent court order that states the amount of arrears you owed. Enter the amount of arrears and the date as of which you owed them: 6a. \$1,578
6b. 9/18/2015

7. Is the date on line 6b earlier than the date on line 4?
If YES: a) enter the line 6b date on line 8;
b) enter the line 4 date on line 9;
c) and skip to step 10.
If NO: a) enter the line 6b date on lines 8 & 9,
b) and skip to step 12.

EXAMPLE: Child Support Arrears Calculation - When Current Support Was Changed

8. Prior period start date: 8. 9/18/2015
9. Current period start date: 9. 5/13/2016
10. If you pay support weekly, count the number of weeks starting from the date on line 8 and ending with the *week before* the date on line 9. (If you are ordered to pay monthly, count the number of months instead.) 10. 33
11. Multiply line 10 by line 1: 11. \$4,554
12. If you pay support weekly count the number of weeks starting from the date on line 9 and ending with the current week. (If you are ordered to pay support monthly, count the number of months instead: 12. 65
13. Multiply line 12 by line 3: 13. \$6,240
14. **Total amount due** – Add lines 11, 13, and any amount on line 6a: 14. \$12,372
15. **Child support paid** –
- a. Copy the date from line 8 above to the Payment History Worksheet, page 14, line 1.
 - b. Finish the Worksheet.
 - c. Enter the amount from line 5 of the Worksheet here: 15c. \$10,035
16. **Arrears owed** – Subtract line 15c from line 14: 16. \$2,337

Child Support Payment History Worksheet

Before You Start: Carefully look through the pages of the payment history you got from the Clerk. There will be a line at the end called “Total Case Distributions.” But there may be another “Total Case Distributions” somewhere in the middle of the pages. If there are two, the first section is for payments made to the Clerk’s office, and the second section for payments made to the state. You will need to follow the steps below for each section. If your payment history is only one section, just leave Section 2 on the Payment History Worksheet blank.

Instructions:

Line 1: Enter the start date of the calculation period. (See instructions on specific calculation sheet).

Line 2: Enter the “Total Case Distributions” amount. (See “**Before You Start**” above. There may be two Total Case Distribution amounts to enter.)

Line 3: Check the “SUBTYP” column of the payment history section for any payments made to birth expenses or genetic testing fees. These will be marked as “BRTH” or “BTST”. Enter the total of these payments, if any.

Line 4: Subtract line 3 from line 2.

Line 5: Total Child support paid - Add line 4, sections 1 and 2.

Child Support Payment History Worksheet

Line Number	Section 1	Section 2
Line 1 – Start date of calculation		N/A
Line 2 – Total Case Distributions		
Line 3 – Birth expense “BRTH” and genetic test fee “BTST” payments		
Line 4 – Subtract line 3 from line 2		
Line 5 – Total Child Support Paid - Add line 4, sections 1 and 2.		N/A

Example Payment History

Line Number	Section 1	Section 2
Line 1 – Start date of calculation	11/1/2016	N/A
Line 2 – Total Case Distributions	640.00	
Line 3 – Birth expense “BRTH” and genetic test fee “BTST” payments	69.00	
Line 4 – Subtract line 3 from line 2	571.00	
Line 5 – Total Child Support Paid - Add line 4, sections 1 and 2.	571.00	N/A

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ASECJK                      I S E T S
***** TAX/CONFIDENTIAL DATA *****
05/10/17  16:00:18          PAYMENT HISTORY
CAUSE #    C01-1305-JP-00          CASE #    73
FROM 11/01/2016 TO 12/01/2016    CERTIFIED (Y/N) N
PAYOR      ERIK                      MPI #    73
PAYEE      AMBER                      MPI #    73
AMT PD BY PAYOR NOT DIRECTED TO ANY CASE/CAUSE :    0.00
AMT        CASE/CAUSE :    0.00
DATE       CK/RCP #    WORKER
CHK STAT CHECK SUPTYP SUBTYP SUB PAYEE
-----
11/28/2016  320.00 CHECK (NO HOLD)          SDUVNDR1
RECN E44          12/05/2016    252.00 CHLD CSUP    00073
                                           68.00 CHLD BTST    0000000051
11/28/2016  320.00 CHECK (NO HOLD)          SDUVNDR1
RECN E44          11/30/2016    319.00 CHLD CSUP    00073
                                           1.00 CHLD BTST    0000000051

TOTAL CASE DISTRIBUTIONS:    640.00
  
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Example of genetic testing subaccount payment.

View total case distribution here.