



Child Support

If your household gets cash assistance for your child, the government will file for child support against your child's other parent.

- One exception: if you are a victim of domestic violence and would be at risk if a support case was filed.
- You must sign a special form at the welfare office stating you are a domestic violence victim and asking them not to file.

If the other parent pays support, you don't get welfare *and* support, just welfare plus a small 'pass through' payment. The rest of the money goes to pay back welfare.

Child Support and Child Custody are not related. You will not get custody of your child just because you pay support; you also won't be denied custody just because you don't.

Minors can file for and receive child support for their own children without adult help.

- Minors can also be required to pay child support, even if they are still in high school.
- But, since support is based off your income or capacity to earn income, most minors and high school students don't have to pay.
- The minor's parents do not have to pay child support for their grandchildren.

SSI and other public benefits (cash assistance, food stamps) **are not income for the purposes of support**—you will never have to give part of these benefits away.

- But, pretty much everything else you earn is income, including income you earn "under the table."

For more on support for teen parents, try philalegal.org/teenparentbook

Get Help

If you need help with support, Philadelphia Legal Assistance may be able to help. Call us at:

Philadelphia Legal Assistance

Monday and Wednesday
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
(215) 981-3838

