



GEORGIA

# CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

General Program Information for State Fiscal Year 2005

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

## Collecting Child Support

Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) services are available to Georgia parents who need assistance. The custodial parent may apply at the OCSE office that serves their county. There is an application fee of \$25. The custodial parent is asked to furnish legal documents, if available, and information about the non-custodial parent.

## Child Support Services Include:

- Locating non-custodial parents
- Establishing paternity
- Establishing and enforcing child support orders
- Establishing and enforcing medical support orders
- Collecting and distributing support payments

## Enforcement Tools Available to OCSE:

- Withholding child support from paychecks or unemployment benefits
- Intercepting federal and/or state income tax refunds to pay child support arrears
- Garnishing workers' compensation benefits
- Reporting parents delinquent in child support payments to credit bureaus
- Suspending or revoking driver's, professional or occupational licenses for failure to pay child support
- Reviewing and modifying child support orders periodically
- Intercepting lottery winnings of more than \$5,000
- Filing contempt of court actions which may result in a jail sentence if the non-custodial parent is found in contempt
- Filing liens and levy on tangible/intangible property
- Seizing matched bank accounts after notice

## Fatherhood Program:

The Fatherhood Program helps any non-custodial parent paying child support through OCSE who lacks the economic capacity to do so because they are unemployed or underemployed. Gainful, stable employment enables these parents to provide regular financial support for their children.

## Child Access and Visitation Program:

The Child Access and Visitation Program addresses the needs of non-custodial parents who want visitation with their children. Research has shown that parental contact is related to the payment of child support and the father's involvement improves children's development and self-esteem. The non-custodial parent must have an active case with OCSE to be eligible for the project.

## OCSE Budget:

- OCSE's budget for state fiscal year 2006 is \$67.8 million, including \$52.3 million in federal funds and \$15.5 million in state funds.
- \$4.67 is collected for every \$1 spent on the program

## Collections:

- Georgia distributed **\$590 million** in state fiscal year 2005 (7-1-04 to 6-30-05).
- Of the \$590 million distributed in FY2005, \$8.1 million was collected from intercepted state tax refunds, \$43 million from federal tax refunds, \$4.6 million from unemployment compensation benefits, \$69,029 from lottery winnings and \$36.9 million in Non-IV-D payments by the Financial Customer Service Unit.
- In the past 5 years, Georgia has collected over \$2.6 billion in child support payments.

## Caseload:

- Georgia OCSE has 491,089 cases.
- 16 percent of all Georgians (custodial parents, non-custodial parents and children) make up the OCSE caseload.
- Caseload represents 515,000 children
- 24 percent of all children under the age of 18 in Georgia have a case with OCSE.
- Georgia Child Support Agents have an average caseload of 669 cases each.

## Parents Under Court Order to Pay Child Support Through State OCSE:

- 357,242 in Georgia
- 67 percent of these parents pay their child support.
- 91 percent of non-custodial parents owing child support in Georgia are fathers and 9 percent are mothers.

## Internet Access to Case and Payment Information: *The fastest way to check on your case...*

### [www.ocse.dhr.georgia.gov](http://www.ocse.dhr.georgia.gov)

Click on "Constituent Services Portal" and apply for services, view payment information, view the status of your case and update case information 24 hours a day, everyday. Your local library has a computer if you do not have one at home.

## Child Support Hotline:

In the 404, 678 or 770 area codes, call 404-463-8800.  
In the 229, 478, 706, 762 & 912 area codes, call 800-227-7993.  
Automated information is available 24 hours a day, everyday. Operators are available 7:00am and 5:30pm Monday-Friday except on state holidays.

## OCSE Does **NOT**:

- help anyone get a divorce;
- find *custodial* parents;
- take legal action about visitation rights or custody;
- enforce court-ordered payment of unpaid bills not related to child support payments