



New York City Office Of Child Support Services (OCSS)

Having a case with the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) creates a record of all child support payments and provides a neutral go-between for parents. There are many benefits to opening a child support case, even if you already have a divorce decree or another type of agreement outside the child support program.

Benefits

Legal parentage



Child support payments



Parent-child relationship



Health Insurance



Neutral Intermediary



With Parentage Established:

Pension Funds



Military allowance



Services

All custodial parents, guardians, and caretakers are eligible for child support services regardless of their income or immigration status. OCSS staff act in the public interest and do not represent either side of a child support case. Parties are not required to obtain the services of an attorney. In summary, OCSS offers:



Locating noncustodial parents



Serving summons



Establishing legal parentage



Referrals for genetic testing



Court referrals or stipulated agreements to establish & modify child support orders



Collecting & distributing child support payments



Enforcing child support orders



Child support debt management & Referrals to mediation services



Employment service referrals

Case Process

1

Enroll for Child Support Services

Access the [online application](https://nyc.gov/hra/ocss) at nyc.gov/hra/ocss. If you are a custodial parent applying for or in receipt of cash assistance, you are required to comply with child support and will automatically be referred for services.

2

Come to an agreement on child support or get an order in court

Once parentage is established, parents can work with OCSS Customer Service staff to get a child support agreement by applying the standard child support guidelines. The agreement will be filed in court prior to the hearing. Alternatively, parties can follow the traditional process of only going through court, which takes longer.

3

Child support order is enforced and payments are received and disbursed. Either party can request to modify the order.

Once an order is established, the obligation amount is monitored, and our program uses Federally mandated measures to ensure payment. If there is a change in circumstances, parents can meet with Customer Service staff to adjust the order and finalize it in court or follow the traditional court process to modify the order.

