

Child Support Agreements

Agree on the terms of your child support order before you go to Family Court

A Child Support Agreement Lets You:

- Get a formal court order in **fewer Family Court appearances**, in most cases.
- Discuss and understand the calculations that determine the court order amount.
- Ask questions and get answers about child support from highly trained Child Support Customer Service representatives.
- Define and negotiate the terms of the agreement without being in the same room as the other parent if that is better for the family.

Four Step Process

Either parent can request a phone appointment or visit the Walk-in Center. Parents discuss the child support terms with a Customer Service Representative, together or seperately.

Once parents agree on the terms, both sign the agreement. HRA staff reviews it to ensure it meets legal requirements. When you are in Family Court, the Support Magistrate issues an order based on the agreement, usually during the first hearing.

Why Not Go Straight to Court?

At the Office of Child Support Services, we understand that obtaining a child support order has its challenge. OCSS wants to give parents a calm and supportive environment. When both parents are on the same page, the outcomes are better for all, most especially your children. For more information about child support, visit <u>nyc.gov/hra/ocss</u>.

Next steps

Find out if an agreement is the right path forward for you. Email us at <u>dcse.cseweb@dfa.state.ny.us</u> and include your full name and your child support Case ID or date of birth if you already have a child support case. Please also provide the best time to contact you.

For other ways to contact us, see <u>https://on.nyc.gov/contactocss</u>.