



DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

COUNTY OF VENTURA • STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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The Ventura County Department of Child Support Services presents:

Here to Help - Maximizing the Services of your Local Child Support Agency for your Client's Benefit

*Working to ensure children
receive consistent and reliable
support from both parents.*



PRESENTED BY THE DCSS ATTORNEYS

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VISION
*Transforming
lives through the
true power of
child support*

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ATTORNEY

DEE DINNIE

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OUR MISSION

Working to ensure children receive consistent and reliable support from both parents.

OUR MISSION

- The mission of the California Child Support Services Program is to promote parental responsibility to enhance the well-being of children by providing child support services to establish parentage and collect child support
- Child support services are available to the general public through 47 county Local Child Support Agencies
- State and federally funded/county administered program



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CORE PURPOSE

To help families thrive.

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Title IV-D: Child Support Services is responsible for establishing and enforcing support [42 U.S.C. §§651-669]

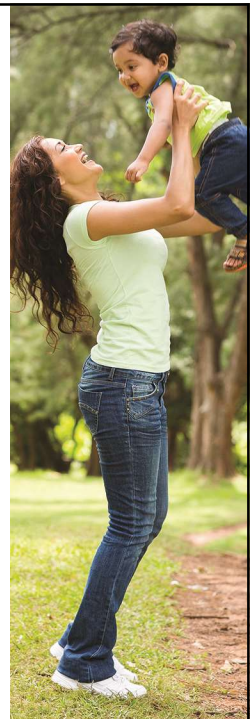
Title IV-A: Public Assistance [42 U.S.C. §§601-609]

Title IV-E: Foster Care [42 U.S.C. §§670-679]

Title XIX: Medical Assistance [42 U.S.C. §§1396-1396v]



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CORE VALUES

Integrity
Compassion
Trust
Communication
Courage
Innovation
Quality



DCSS OPERATIONS

- DCSS is responsible for establishing, enforcing and collecting child support
- Approximately 1 million open cases statewide
- \$2.8 billion collected and disbursed in 2020; \$2.5 billion in 2019
- Partners with other agencies to identify the needs of the child support customer
 - Jobs programs
 - Behavioral Health
 - Domestic Violence
 - Homeless programs
 - Criminal Justice



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DCSS CASES

Child Support Services handles cases:

- Where public assistance has been paid (mandatory)
 - The Local Child Support Agency is an indispensable party [W&I § 11477]
- Where public assistance has not been paid (voluntary application of a party)
 - Local Child Support Agency shall be served notice by the moving party in child support cases [FC § 4251(f)]
- That are formerly assisted
- That are intergovernmental cases [FC § 5700.101]



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DCSS DISTINCTIONS

- No filing fees and Court costs for the Local Child Support Agency [GC § 6103 and § 6103.9]
- Not subject to attorney fees and costs [FC § 273]
- If Child Support Services is enforcing child support but did not participate/sign stipulation, the stipulation is void [FC § 4065]
- Not bound by orders if no notice was given to the Local Child Support Agency (IRMO Mena (1989) 212 Cal.App.3d 12)
- Volume and Timeliness [FC § 17400(a)]
 - The Local Child Support Agency is required to promptly and effectively establish, modify, and enforce child support



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CASE OPENING

- Once an IV-A referral is made, or non-aid application is received from a party (usually, the custodial parent), we review the case to determine the next appropriate action.
- If there is no prior order:
 - Summons and Complaint or Summons and Petition (Interstate)
- If there is an existing order:
 - Registration of Foreign Support Order [FC§5700.607(a)]
 - Orders from other states
 - Registration of California Support Order
 - Orders from other California Counties [FC§5600]
- Substitution of Payee [FC §§4204, 4506.3]
 - Notice Regarding Payment of Support (“NRPS”)



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CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality [FC § 17212] Limitations on what can be shared

– DCSS files, records, data and other information are confidential and not subject to disclosure except:

- In the administration of the Title IV D Child Support program
 - A document requested by a person who wrote, prepared or furnished the document
 - Payment history
 - An income and expense declaration for the purpose of establishing or modifying a support order
 - Upon a Court finding of due process
 - Information indicating the existence of imminent threat of a crime against a child

Substitution of Attorney and Authorized Representative form !!!



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HOW CAN DCSS HELP YOUR CLIENT?

- Establishing parentage
 - By Court order
 - By Voluntary Declaration of Parentage (VDOP)
 - Same force and effect as Judgment
 - https://childsupport.ca.gov/establishing_legal_parentage/
 - <https://parentage.dcss.ca.gov/>
- Establishing a support order
- Modifying support order
- Enforcing an existing support order
 - Includes enforcement tools available only to DCSS



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HOW CAN DCSS HELP YOUR CLIENT?

- Locate a party
- Supplement the legal services you provide
 - Ability for party to bring independent enforcement actions
 - Requires written notice to the Local Child Support Agency [FC § 17404(f)(2)]
- Keeping financial records neutral record keeping
- Facilitation of Stipulations
 - Result focused
 - Will work with you at any stage of the process
 - Meet and Confer Process
 - DCSS Alternative Dispute Resolution Program



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DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM

- Arrears owed to the State
- Must owe permanently assigned (aided) arrears to the State of California.
- Cannot reduce arrears owed to a non aided party or to another state.
- The new Debt Reduction program aligns the repayment amount with ability to pay and provides an equitable repayment structure.
- During the debt reduction agreement enforcement suppressions go in place

Contact our office to assist in answering questions and helping clients through the debt reduction process



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HOW CAN YOU HELP DCSS HELP YOUR CLIENT

Prepare Judgments and Order After Hearings

- Generally disfavored to enforce Minute Orders
- Clear, unambiguous orders are very helpful
- Identify who is the obligor parent
- Orders payable on the 1st of the month are preferred
 - Our case management system makes order payable the 1st and 15th difficult for the Local Child Support Agency

Attach a guideline support calculation

- Make sure to include allocated orders that identify the support amount for each child
- Ex: Commencing July 1, 2021, child support is \$200 for Sally and \$300 for Bobby for a total of \$500 per month



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HOW CAN YOU HELP DCSS HELP YOUR CLIENT

- Educate clients on interest on judgments
- Encourage some payment monthly and staying in contact with the Local Child Support Agency
- Make sure clients understand duration of support
 - Child support is owed until paid in full [FC § 3901]
- Child support arrears debt can extend past the child's emancipation if not paid regularly from the beginning
- Ensure Client's payments go through the Statewide Disbursement Unit (SDU) and not to each other when DCSS is involved [FC § 5235(e); 42 USC § 654, et seq. and FC § 17309]



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HOW CAN YOU HELP DCSS HELP YOUR CLIENT

- Communication and Collaboration
- Contact your Local Child Support Agency when they are involved in your case
- Your Local Child Support Agency will work with you and your client on resolution as much as possible
 - Stipulations
 - Payment arrangements
 - License Releases
- Make sure the child support case in which DCSS is involved is heard by a Child Support Commissioner



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