

Ventura County Department of Child Support Services 2025 Annual VCBA Presentation

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WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT US

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Family Law Bar Association



The Beginning

- Federal legislation was enacted in 1975 to add Title IV-D to the Social Security Act which mandated that all States establish a child support program.
- In California, the State Child Support Reform Act of 1999 created the new California Department of Child Support Services and moved administration of the IV-D program away from the District Attorneys' Office to Local Child Support Agencies.
- The main goals of the initial legislation was to locate absent parents, establish parentage and court orders for child support, and enforce those orders.

Shift in Focus



THE CHILD SUPPORT LEGISLATION WAS INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE LARGE VOLUME OF CASES, STREAMLINING THE COURT APPEARANCE PROCESS.



ACCORDING TO THE 2024 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT, THERE WERE 1,039,324 CASES OPEN STATEWIDE.



VENTURA COUNTY HAD 17,164 OPEN CASES, WITH A SUPPORT ORDER ESTABLISHED IN 94.3% OF THESE CASES.

Federal Final Rule

The Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization (FEM) Rule went into effect January 1, 2017, which mandated changes to the way child support was enforced by requiring orders based on the ability to pay.



A horizontal timeline diagram. On the left, an orange arrow points right and contains the text '1 Jan. 2017'. A dashed orange line extends upwards from the top of this arrow to a text block. A solid orange line extends from the right tip of the orange arrow to the left tip of a grey arrow. The grey arrow points left and contains the text '1 Sep. 2024'. A dashed grey line extends downwards from the bottom of the grey arrow to another text block.

1 Jan. 2017

1 Sep. 2024

California's SB 343 is the most recent large-scale legislation to align with FEM requirements. Phase 1 went into effect September 1, 2024, and Phase 2 will go into effect January 1, 2026.

Earning Capacity Statistics

- In Phase 2, presumed income can no longer be used
- Earning capacity is required to be used
- The Department relies on statistical information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and California EDD

Latest Observation:

September 2025

30.8

Jan 2023 - Sep 2025

Minimum Value: January 2025

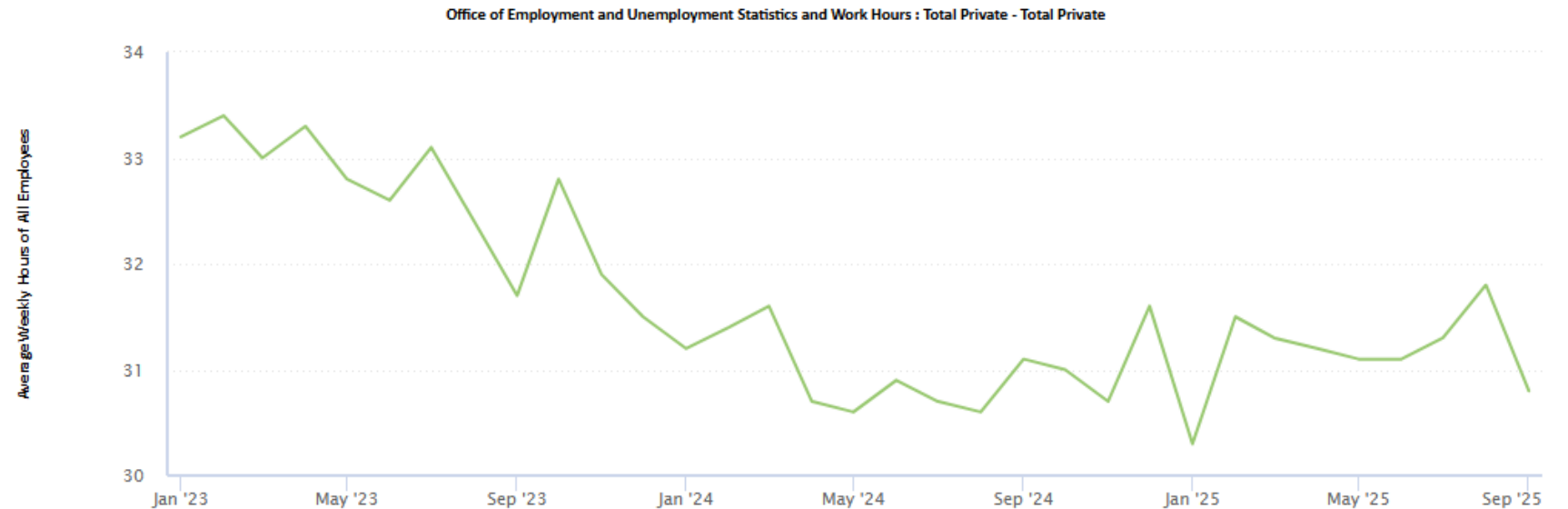
30.3

Maximum Value: February 2023

33.4

Data Availability:

2007 - 2025



Benefits of Opening a Child Support Case

- Accurate Accounting
 - A payment history can be generated and obtained 24/7 through the Customer Connect, which is a secure self-service website.
- Automated Enforcement
 - Income Withholding Orders, tax intercepts, property liens
- Modification
 - Either parent can request the LCSA to review their child support order when there is a change in circumstances. We will file the Notice of Motion to set a court date.
- Customer Service
 - Our child support professionals will work with you and your clients to provide answers to questions about your child support cases.

Help Us Help You

- Keep us informed with changes in representation, in and out.
- Let us know when there are changes in contact information.
- If you want to let your client speak with us directly, please provide written authorization.
- When you are negotiating (even before we are involved), please keep us in mind!
- If we are involved, we must join in your stipulations – if we don't, the order is not valid (FC 4065(c)).

What We Can't Do



We cannot enforce orders that lack specificity.



We cannot release your client's passport (42 U.S.C. 652(k)).



We cannot enforce spousal support (and we stop accounting of spousal support) once there is no longer a current, ongoing child support order.



We cannot determine arrears where there is a dispute between the parents – a motion must be filed or a stipulation reached.

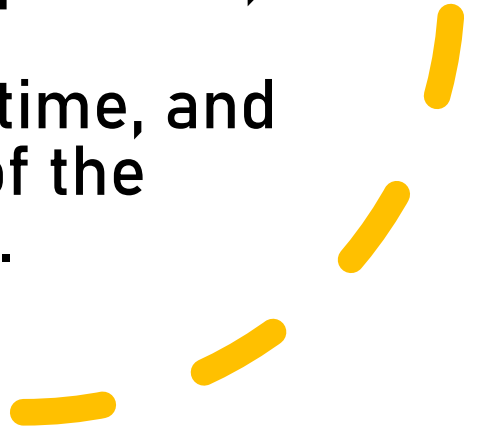


We cannot waive arrears owed to a parent without their consent (and we cannot administratively approve stipulations that lack consideration)

AB 747

- Service of Process Accountability, Reform and Equity (SPARE) Act, introduced 2/18/2025
- Enrolled and presented to Gov. Newsom 9/23/2025
- Effective 1/1/2027
- Major changes to service of process

AB 747

- County Clerks are required to maintain a publicly available register of process servers.
 - Expands reasonable diligence standards for service of process to require attempted service in good faith, on at least 3 different occasions, on 3 different days, at 3 different times.
 - Proof of Service, personal or substituted, must include 1 or more photographs of each site of the attempted service of process, including a readable stamp that automatically records the date, time, and GPS or equivalent coordinates of the completed or attempted service.
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AB 747



If no GPS tracking is available, the process server must explain, in a declaration, why it is not available.



Photographs are not required if taking the photo would compromise the server's safety.



CCP 473(e) is added to allow a party to bring a motion to vacate a default judgment void for lack of proper service at any time after entry of the judgment.

Questions for us?



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