



Department of Job and Family Services

General Child Support Information for Rapid Response

October 2009



Are unemployment benefits subject to a child support withholding?

Yes, unemployment benefits received by a parent with an order to pay child support are **subject to withholding** for the payment of child support. If the parent is supporting another spouse or child, up to 50% of benefits can be withheld for child support.

How do I request an administrative review?

To request an administrative review, please contact your local CSEA. Each of the state's 88 counties has a CSEA, staffed by people who are well-versed in Ohio laws, practices and procedures and who can answer your questions and explain your rights. **To find the CSEA in your county, call 1-800-686-1556 or visit:**

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/cntydir.stm>

Highlights of the Child Support Administrative Adjustment & Review Process

If you have a child support order in Ohio and you have encountered a lay-off or plant closing, **you may already qualify to have your child support case reviewed and adjusted.** Please contact your local child support enforcement agency (CSEA) if either of the following occurs:

- You have been **unemployed, through no fault of your own, for at least 30 consecutive days.**
- You have experienced at least a **30 percent decrease** in gross income or income-producing assets for a period of six months because of circumstances beyond your control, and you expect that decrease to continue for an extended period of time.

Regardless of your circumstances, Ohio law entitles you to a review and adjustment of your support order if it has been 36 months or longer since the support order became effective or was last reviewed.

With the administrative adjustment and review process, a CSEA will consider your case and **present a recommendation for a possible adjustment.** (Effective July 1, 2008, all child support orders must include either covered medical insurance for children or the potential for additional cash payment if coverage is not available at a reasonable cost.)

It is important to stay in touch with the local child support enforcement agency.

- A parent documenting reasonable **job searches while also communicating with the child support enforcement agency** will stay on the legal side of things even if not able to meet his or her court ordered obligation for child support.
- **Please follow up with your child support agency.** Give your case manager a list of the places you applied for jobs. Report to the agency the moment you obtain employment so that a wage withholding can be sent to the new employer and so that agency records can be updated.

