



### Points to Remember

- Parents or caregivers can request a modification (change).
- To request a modification through the local child support agency, you must have an open case.
- A case can be opened anytime.
- Your child support order can go up or down based on information gathered. The order may not be what you expected.
- There is no charge for requesting a modification through the local child support agency.
- Even if your request is denied, you can still go to court to have a judge decide your order. The Family Law Facilitator at the courthouse can help you do this.

Contact a local child support agency:

**866-901-3212 toll-free**

(within the U.S.)

**TTY 866-399-4096**

# Changing Your Child Support Amount



Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor  
State of California

Diana S. Dooley, Secretary  
California Health and Human Services Agency

Alisha Griffin, Director  
California Department of Child Support Services

1-866-901-3212 (toll-free)  
TTY 1-866-399-4096 (toll-free)  
[www.childsup.ca.gov](http://www.childsup.ca.gov)

PUB 252 (9/2014)

*The California Department of Child Support  
Services does not provide legal services  
to parents or guardians.*

Department of  
Child Support Services

## How can I change my child support amount?

You can ask for a modification to increase or decrease your court-ordered child support amount.

### Who can ask for a modification?

- Noncustodial parents.
- Custodial parties (parents, caregivers, etc.)
- Local child support agencies.
- Child support agencies from other states.

### How do I ask for a modification?

- Contact your local child support agency.
- Go to court on your own. The Family Law Facilitator at the courthouse (not part of the local child support agency) provides free legal assistance and can help you with the process.
- Hire a private attorney to go to court with you.

### When can I ask for a modification?

You can ask for a modification if your circumstances change, such as:

- You are laid off or fired from your job.
- You get a new or additional job.
- Your income or the other parent's income increases or decreases.
- Custody or visitation changes.
- Family size changes.

- You become disabled.
- You go to jail or prison.
- You are deployed to active military service.



### What do I need to provide?

In order for the local child support agency to review your case for modification, you will need to provide information, such as:

- Income and expenses.
- Child care expenses.
- Medical insurance.
- Disability (SSI, SDI, SSA, etc.)
- Jail or prison status.
- Unemployment benefits.
- Retirement income.
- Custody and visitation arrangements.

### What should I expect?

After reviewing the information (above) you and the other parent provide, the local child support agency will determine whether a modification is needed, and if so, the appropriate amount of support. A modification may be justified if the support order would change by 20 percent or \$50, whichever is less.

If you and the other party can agree to the support amount ahead of time, you can sign a stipulation (agreement) that must be filed with the court.

If there is no agreement, you will receive a notice to appear in court for a hearing where a judge or commissioner will decide the amount.

If the other party lives in another state, the local child support agency may have to request that the other state conduct a review and request a modification.

