

Locations of Legal Aid Bureau Offices

Baltimore Offices

Baltimore City

500 East Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410)539-5340
(800)999-8904
(800)458-5340 TTY

Cherry Hill

Cherry Hill Neighborhood Ctr.
606 Cherry Hill Road
Baltimore, MD 21225
(410)355-4223

Other Maryland Offices

Anne Arundel County

229 Hanover Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
(800)666-8330

Baltimore County

29 W. Susquehanna Ave.
Suite 305
Towson, MD 21204
(410)296-6705
(800)367-7563

Lower Eastern Shore

Wicomico, Dorchester, Worcester, Somerset
111 High Street
Salisbury, MD 21801
(800)444-4099

Metropolitan Maryland *Prince George's*

6811 Kenilworth Avenue
Calvert Bldg., Suite 500
Riverdale, MD 20737
(888)215-5316

Montgomery

14015 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301)879-8752

Howard

3451 Court House Dr, 2nd
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410)480-1057

Midwestern Maryland

Frederick, Carroll & Washington
22 South Market Street, Suite 11
Frederick, MD 21701
(800)679-8813
(800)763-4152 TTY

TTY available in all offices

Northeastern Maryland

Harford, Cecil
5 North Main St, Suite 200
Bel Air, MD 21014
(800)444-9529

Southern Maryland

Charles, St. Mary's, Calvert
15364 Prince Frederick Road
Hughesville, MD 20637
(301)932-6661 Charles
(301)884-5935 St. Mary's
(410)535-3278 Calvert
(301)843-5850 D.C.

Upper Eastern Shore

Queen Anne's, Caroline, Kent, Talbot
Tred Avon Square, Suite 3
210 Marlboro Road
Easton, MD 21601
(800)477-2543

Western Maryland

Allegany, Garrett
110 Greene Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301)777-7474 Allegany
(301)334-8832 Garrett

Statewide

Nursing Home & Assisted Living Programs
(800)367-7563

Farm Worker Program

(800)444-4099

Maryland Senior Legal Hotline

(800)999-8904

Housing Preservation Program

(800)999-8904

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT: *How Payments Are Calculated*

Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.

Maryland

(410) 539-5340

(800) 999-8904

(800) 458-5340 TTY

<http://www.mdlab.org>



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How Child Support Payments Are Calculated

In Maryland, set guidelines must be used in calculating how much child support a non-custodial parent must pay. Maryland's guidelines attempt to estimate the percentage of income that parents would spend on children if the parents were living in the same household. Maryland's guidelines use the following steps to determine a child support obligation:

1. Each parent's actual monthly income is determined. If a parent is not working and has no other form of income, the court can still assign income if it finds that the parent has the ability to work. Each parent's actual or assigned income can sometimes be reduced by the parent's other child support or alimony obligations or the parent's costs of providing health insurance for a child.
2. Both parents' incomes or potential incomes are added together. This combined number is used to determine from the guidelines a basic child support obligation for the combined income.
3. The non-custodial parent is then obligated to pay a percentage share of the combined income to the custodial parent. If the parents share custody, the amount of the child support obligation may be less.
4. A court can also order that the non-custodial parent pay an additional amount for certain medical, school, transportation and day care expenses and for health insurance for a child.

Can Child Support Be Lower than the Guidelines?

It is very difficult to get child support set at a lower amount than calculated according to the guidelines. To do so, the non-custodial parent must convince the court why following the guidelines would be unjust or inappropriate and **why a lower amount of child support is in the child's best interests**. For example, a non-custodial parent may need to lower the amount of support to allow more time to get training or education for a more stable income.

Do You Have To Go to Child Support Hearings?

Yes, you should attend any scheduled hearing on your child support. Otherwise, the court may issue an order that assigns income to you that is not correct. You can also be held in contempt of court if you miss a court hearing. **You should understand that you do not have to agree to an amount of child support at the child support office.** If you do not agree with how much is being recommended at the child support office, you can request a court hearing to determine the correct amount.

The Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., established in 1911, provides free civil legal services to eligible low-income people throughout Maryland. Among its services, Legal Aid provides outreach and limited representation to non-custodial parents where child support issues cause barriers to employment.

Revision date 9/30/02. Remember: The law often changes. Each case is different. This pamphlet is meant to give you general information and not to give you specific legal advice.