

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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: *Modifications*

*Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.*

*Maryland*

**(410) 539-5340**

**(800) 999-8904**

**(800) 458-5340 TTY**

**<http://www.mdlab.org>**



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# Child Support Modifications

You can seek to change the amount of child support ordered by a court if you think it is incorrect. For example, the income of either parent may have changed, you may have lost your job or become disabled, or you may become incarcerated and unable to pay.

## How to Seek Modification of Your Child Support Order

There are two ways you can try to change a child support order. **Once every three years, either parent has the right to request the child support enforcement office to conduct a review** of the child support order for possible modification. If you make your request for a review and modification, you should put your request in writing and be careful to keep a copy for yourself as proof that you made the request. You should explain why you are requesting the review, sign and date it, and include your child support case number and other identifying information on the request.

**Either parent can also, at any time, file a motion to modify an existing child support order.** You should file the motion in the court which issued the child support order.\* For Baltimore City cases, motions can most likely be filed in the clerk's office, paternity division (Room 441, Clarence Mitchell Courthouse, (410) 333-3738), or in the clerk's office, family division (Room 462, Courthouse East, (410) 333-3711). You may need to check both offices. To be successful in getting a child support order changed, you must show that a "material change in circumstances" has occurred since the most recent order was signed. Examples of changes can include such things as losing your job, having your income reduced, becoming disabled, and becoming incarcerated.

\* *The Pro Se office* can often provide forms and limited help to people filing court documents without a lawyer (Room 232 Courthouse east, (410) 396-6925)

## Generally, You Cannot Change Past Owed Child Support

It is important to understand that the law does not allow retroactive modifications of child support. This means that, with limited exceptions, you can try to change your child support obligations only from the date you file a motion to modify child support. You generally cannot go back and change past amounts of child support due even if you can show that you could not pay the past support for good reasons. Therefore, **if changes occur, it is important that you file your request to modify child support right away.**

## What If You Are in Jail or Prison?

If you go to jail or prison and you have an existing child support obligation, the child support you owe will continue to accrue while you are in jail. **To stop or reduce the child support while you are in jail, you must file a motion to modify child support.** You will likely not be able to go back and change past amounts of child support owed once you get out of jail. You should notify both Child Support Enforcement and the court that you are in jail and request modification of your child support. Be sure your child support and court case numbers are on the requests and keep a copy for yourself as your proof of sending them.

*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.