Does your child get financial support from BOTH parents?

Child support is a court-ordered payment for the care of children that ensures their right to receive financial support from both of their parents. The Child Support Administration helps families to collect child support payments, establish paternity, search for the absent parent, and obtain a court order for child support and health insurance. The program also works to enforce, review, and adjust court ordered support amounts.

How do you establish paternity?

Maryland law allows paternity establishment through a court order or through the completion of an Affidavit of Parentage form. In some cases, the child and both parents may have to undergo genetic testing. Genetic testing involves passing a swab along the inside of the cheek to gather a saliva sample.

How do I apply?

Apply at the local Child Support Administration or the child support office within your local department of social services.

- You must be able to establish paternity of the child.

- If you are not receiving cash assistance or medical assistance, you must pay a one time non-refundable fee of $15.00 when you file an application.

- There is NO income requirement to receive assistance from the child support program.

- You must be willing to provide as much information as you can to help locate the absent parent.

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Child Support

What should I bring to the interview?

- Photo identification (driver's license, Maryland identification card, or employment identification card)

- Proof of address (from apartment or house lease; electric, gas, water, or phone bill; rent book; rent receipt; or mortgage statement)

- Birth certificate of the child

- Proof of paternity (if any)

- Information about the absent parent

- Your Social Security Card and the social security number of the child(ren) you are seeking benefits for.

- The most current child support or custody Orders (if any)