



Number of counties:	102
Number of cases:	328,131
Intergovernmental cases:	41495
Initiating cases:	12398
Responding cases:	27148

Structure of State IV-D Program

In Illinois, the Title IV-D Program is administered by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) Child Support Services (CSS). IV-D services are provided locally by cooperative agreements with State Attorneys, Attorney Generals and Circuit Clerks. Many IV-D services are provided at state level.

- Illinois uses the Shared Income Guideline Model since July 1, 2017.
- Individuals may enroll in Title IV-D services by submitting either an online enrollment form via the CSS website or paper enrollment form at one of 11 CSS Regional Offices.
- Representing attorneys ensure paternity and support orders are established.
- CSS reviews and modifies child support orders, sends income withholding and National Medical Support Notice forms to employers and self-employed obligors, and initiates judicial enforcement proceedings, both civil and criminal.
- CSS maintains records of payments and orders on IV-D cases. CSS Downstate Field Accounting exercises audit oversight of Title IV-D funds. The Intergovernmental Case

Reconciliation (ICR) project is managed by the CSS Intergovernmental Central Registry Unit (ICRU).
Intergovernmental Central Registry
ICRU reviews all incoming UIFSA packets. If something is missing or seems incorrect, the initiating state is contacted by phone, e-mail, or Transmittal #1 – Initial Request Acknowledgement which satisfies acknowledgement of receipt within the 10-day period. The UIFSA packet is not returned unless there is no response to the Transmittal #1, the initiating jurisdiction requests it, or the packet was sent to the wrong state. • ICRU processes approximately 75-100 incoming UIFSA packets per week. • ICRU receives and processes all incoming Limited-Service requests. • ICRU manages Intergovernmental Case Reconciliation, known as the ICR Project, with assistance from IV-D Regional Offices. • Other state entities may contact ICRU for non-certified copies of Paternity Affidavits. All Paternity Affidavits are scanned into a CSS database for children born in Illinois.
Judicial and Administrative Processes
Illinois utilizes administrative and judicial processes for paternity, establishment, and modification of child support orders.
Paternity & Support Establishment Requirements
Paternity is not established by father's name on child's birth certificate alone. Paternity is established either by Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity (VAP), Administrative Paternity Order, or the judicial process. Required paternity documentation includes: • Transmittal #1 • Child Support Agency Confidential Information Form • Personal Information Form for UIFSA 311 • Uniform Support Petition • General Testimony • Declaration in Support of Establishing Parentage*. *A separate Declaration in Support of Establishing Parentage is needed for each child. Support is established through the administrative or judicial process. Required documentation includes: • Transmittal #1 • Child Support Agency Confidential Information Form • Personal Information Form for UIFSA 311 • Uniform Support Petition • General Testimony • Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity (VAP) is required to demonstrate that paternity is not an issue. Birth certificates from other states may be used to establish paternity. See the Intergovernmental Reference Guide (IRG) for further information. Note: Support can be retroactively established per reasonable determination when judicially established, or up to a maximum of two years when administratively established.

Modification or Adjustment and Review

Modifications of child support can be completed administratively or judicially.

Required documentation for a modification includes:

- Transmittal #1
- Child Support Agency Confidential Information Form
- Personal Information Form for UIFSA 311
- Uniform Support Petition
- General Testimony

If the modification request is for an Illinois court order, then a record of any payments received by the initiating jurisdiction or any another jurisdiction besides Illinois of which aware are needed. If the request for modification is for a court order from any other jurisdiction, then a Letter of Transmittal Requesting Registration, certified court order, and a certified statement of arrears (or certified payment history and arrears balance) are required.

Modifications of support are warranted only when there has been a substantial and continuing change of circumstances that makes the current order unreasonable, or when thirty-six months have elapsed since the most recent child support order was issued and a new calculation of child support using the Illinois Child Support Guidelines would result in a greater than 20% increase or decrease from the current order. Modifications may be made retroactive to the date the petition to modify was filed, but not earlier.

Medical Support

- Illinois statute requires that one or both parents must be ordered to provide health insurance coverage for the child so long as it is available at a reasonable cost. Public health insurance may be used to satisfy this requirement.
- Illinois Child Support Guidelines establish rebuttable presumption that health insurance is available at reasonable cost, which is an amount that does not exceed 5% of the obligated parent's gross income.
- Parents share responsibility for payment of uninsured health care expenses. Illinois sends the National Medical Support Notice (NMSN) to an NCP's employer, or other appropriate form to self-employed obligors, when the NCP is ordered to provide health insurance coverage. Illinois does not enforce medical support against custodial parents.
- Illinois does enforce and establish Medical Only orders.

Termination of support – Law and Process

- Illinois generally considers a child emancipated and current support terminated, upon the child's 18th birthday. Under certain conditions, such as when the court finds the child is incapacitated, a child's emancipation may extend beyond their 18th birthday. In such cases, support continues during incapacity or until further order of the court.
- If the child is currently enrolled in high school, child support may be extended to the child's 19th birthday or completion of high school, whichever occurs first.
- Emancipation also occurs when the child: is on active duty in the United States armed services; has married; or is not under the control of either parent (or agency or individual approved by the court) and the child is self-supporting.

- A court may order the emancipation of a child retroactive to the date of the qualifying event with proper documentation.
- Termination of current support prior to the emancipation age for all child support orders issued in Illinois requires a subsequent order. Current support does not automatically terminate simply due to the child's enlistment in the armed forces, marriage, or death.
- Charging of current support automatically ceases on IV-D cases on the next date of the charge after the child (or youngest child on the case) turns 18. Most Illinois support orders are in gross rather than per child, in which case the current support obligation is not automatically modified when less than all the children emancipate. Child support orders may only be modified by court order.
- If support was terminated by a court order, the county clerk can provide a copy of the order.
- See the Intergovernmental Reference Guide (IRG) for applicable Illinois statutes and further information.

Case Closure and Non-IV-D Cases

- Closed cases remain accessible in the Illinois IV-D database system. Certain closed case information is archived periodically but can be restored.
- The Illinois IV-D database system retains copies of administrative and judicial support orders for IV-D cases in its associated imaging system. Copies of court orders for IV-D and non-IV-D cases are maintained by Illinois Circuit Clerks per respective county.
- Illinois continues to enforce an order and maintain records after all parties leave the state until the case can be closed pursuant to federal closure rules. If Illinois issued the order and the CP opts out of IV-D services, the case is made non-IV-D, and all IV-D enforcement actions are terminated. IWOs that are currently in place will be automatically terminated. If Illinois is not the issuing order state and Illinois is asked to close the Illinois IV-D case by another state, a payment record is sent to that state, balances are removed from KIDS, and the case is closed.

Interest, Fees & Costs

Since January 1, 2021, CSS is only involved in the calculation, establishment, and enforcement of interest on IV-D cases meeting criteria contained in 89 Illinois Administrative Code Section 160.89. The CP must submit written request for interest. If Illinois is the responding jurisdiction, the initiating jurisdiction is to provide the written request along with a Transmittal #2 – Subsequent Actions requesting an interest adjudication review. The parties may always pursue interest on their own. A support obligation, or any portion of a support obligation, which becomes due and remains unpaid for 30 days or more shall accrue interest at the rate of 9% per annum.

- Illinois does not enforce other state fees, etc.

Enforcement

Administrative Enforcement

The following administrative remedies are available:

- Credit Bureau Reporting
- Passport Denial
- Gaming and Lottery Intercept
- OCSS Insurance Match

- Unclaimed Property Intercept
- Driver's License Suspension
- Recreational (Hunting & Fishing) License Suspension
- Professional License Suspension
- Real Property Lien
- State and Federal Offset
- Personal Property Lien (includes FIDM with matches listed on further reviewed report)

Illinois uses IWOs to collect past due child support from financial accounts. If an Illinois financial institution will not accept an out-of-state freeze and seize order, Illinois HFS will accept a UIFSA requesting FIDM only. Other states should send a Transmittal #1, Child Support Agency Confidential Information form, copy of the underlying court order (does not need to be certified) and either a calculation of arrears or statement of arrears with the balance to be collected to ICRU via EDE or fax. States should also notate in the comment section that only FIDM, not full enforcement, is being requested.

- Illinois has an automated non-compliance process for IWO and e-IWO administered at the state level.

Judicial Enforcement

The following judicial remedies are available:

- Civil contempt – Enforcement by civil contempt is widely used. The representing attorney may file a petition for contempt with the court. The State must prove that the failure to pay support as ordered was willful and that the NCP had the ability to pay. Sanctions for contempt are at the judge's discretion and may include suspended or executed sentences of incarceration; work release or house arrest; orders to search for employment, obtain education, obtain a driver's license; requirements to attend counseling, education classes, or treatment programs; and screening for alcohol and drug use. Contempt sanctions involving deprivation of liberty (incarceration, work release, etc.) must offer the NCP an opportunity to purge themselves of the contempt via reasonable cash bond.
- Arrears-only cases – Incarceration is not a remedy for enforcement of arrears-only cases, and most Illinois courts do not permit the use of civil contempt in these cases. Arrears-only cases may be enforced judicially through the use of supplemental proceedings to collect on a judgment. (Note: Past due child support is a judgment as a matter of law.)
- Courts may also order Driver's License Suspension and Professional License Suspension independently of our administrative remedies.

Special Enforcement Items to Note:

- Out-of-state orders must be registered before enforcement begins.
- Illinois does not permit direct service for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) Withholding. Instead, an IWO is issued to Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) by ICRU.

Incarcerated Parents

It is common for Illinois to enter an administrative or judicial zero-dollar support order when an NCP is incarcerated. Incarceration is a substantial and continuing change that gives the NCP or other party the right to seek a modification of support.

- Paternity can be established while an NCP is incarcerated.
- There is no automatic abatement of support; a petition to modify must be filed with the court.
- Support is subject to review and modification upon the inmate's release.

Payment Processing

- Payments for intergovernmental cases are not split between cases. They are dedicated to the cases to which they are paid.
- The Illinois SDU processes payments for IV-D and non-IV-D cases.
- Ways to Pay: ExpertPay may be used for online payments and MoneyGram accepts child support payments at participating outlets nationwide. There are convenience fees for these services.

Change of "Payee"

- A change of payee due to change of physical or legal custody must be court ordered. Court orders do not "follow the child" in Illinois. Either a modification of the existing order or establishment of a new order is necessary. The method for modification is at court discretion. Proof of legal custody should be included with all change of payee requests unless the custodial party is actively receiving IV-A TANF assistance, or involves IV-E funded foster care.
- TANF recipients must cooperate with CSS provision of IV-D services, unless exempt for Good Cause.

Recent Changes to Note

Illinois incorporated Central Authority Payment (CAP) processing in May 2023, which continues to expand processing for additional countries.

Illinois implemented Full Pass Through state legislative changes on July 1, 2024. Except for disbursement of certain retained monies collected January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, other states should see no processing change.

Computer System Information, Status, and Usage of Portal Communication Tools

The Illinois IV-D database system is being upgraded and will be replaced with a new system. The currently used system is the Key Information Delivery System (KIDS). The upcoming system is Enforcement & Paternity for Illinois Children (EPIC). The new system is expected to be operational in 2026. Processing improvements are expected in all areas—including intergovernmental.

- Illinois IV-D database system: Key Information Delivery System (KIDS).
- Illinois also uses:
 - EDE
 - QUICK
 - CSENET
- Illinois Child Support website: <https://hfs.illinois.gov/childsupport.html>

Intergovernmental Problem-Solving

- The Illinois Intergovernmental Central Registry Unit (ICRU) provides payment ledgers and copies of orders per Transmittal request.
- Assistance may be requested via email to ICRU at HFS.DCSSICRU@illinois.gov.