

What Child Support Teammates in Other States Should Know About Indiana

2025

Structure of State IV-D Program

- In Indiana, the Title IV-D Program is administered by the Child Support Bureau (CSB) of the Department of Child Services (DCS). Title IV-D services are provided locally by cooperative agreements with elected County Prosecutors and Clerks. Many IV-D services are also provided at the state level by the CSB.
- Individuals may enroll in Title IV-D services by either submitting an online enrollment form to CSB or a paper enrollment form at the local Prosecutor's Office.
- Prosecutors ensure that paternity and support orders are established. Prosecutors are responsible for review and adjustment of child support orders, sending IWOs and NMSNs to employers, and initiating judicial enforcement proceedings, both civil and criminal. Clerks are the record keepers of payments and orders.
- The Intergovernmental Case Reconciliation (ICR) project is managed by the Intergovernmental Central Registry Unit (ICRU), a division of CSB.
- The State Board of Accounts exercises audit oversight of Title IV-D funds.
- Indiana's current computer system is Indiana Support Enforcement Tracking System (ISETS).

Number of Counties:

92

Number of Cases: (as of 05/13/2025)

364,397 Total
203,253 IV-D
161,144 NIVD

Intergovernmental Cases:

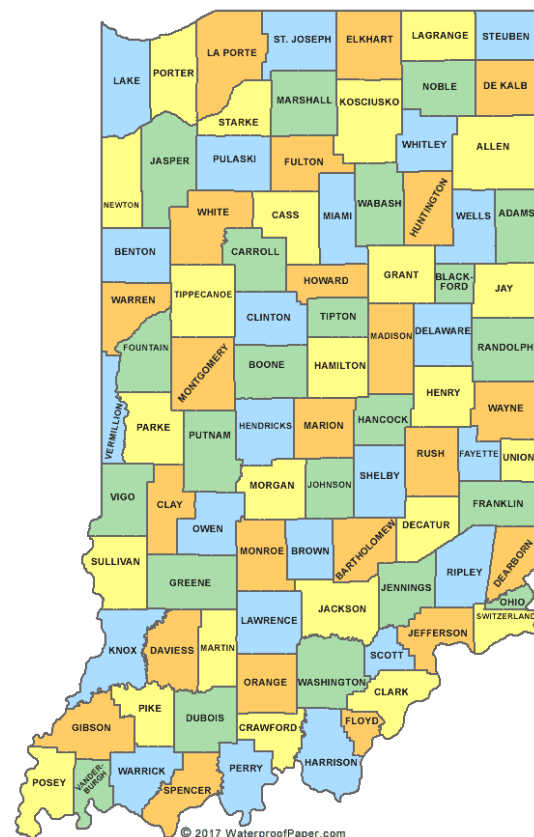
27,049

Initiating Cases:

12,839

Responding Cases:

14,210



Intergovernmental Central Registry Unit (ICRU)

- ICRU reviews all incoming UIFSA packets. If there is something missing or does not seem correct, the initiating state will be contacted by phone, e-mail or by a 60-day letter. This satisfies the acknowledgement of receipt within the 10-day time frame. The UIFSA packet is not returned unless there is no response to the 60-day letter, the initiating jurisdiction requests it, or the packet was sent to the wrong state.
- ICRU processes approximately 100-150 incoming UIFSA packets per week.
- ICRU receives and processes all incoming Limited-Service requests.
- ICRU is responsible for managing the Intergovernmental Case Reconciliation or ICR Project in Indiana with the assistance of local county IV-D offices.
- Other states may also contact ICRU for non-certified copies of Paternity Affidavits. All Paternity Affidavits have been scanned by the State Department of Health in their database for children born in Indiana from 2005 to present. Some previous ones have also been scanned. Others may be obtained by contacting the State Department of Health directly. Please see the IRG for their contact information.

Judicial and Administrative Processes

- Indiana utilizes judicial processes for establishment and modification of child support orders. Administrative and judicial processes are available for paternity establishment and enforcement of child support orders. See below for additional information.

Paternity & Support Establishment Requirements

- Paternity can be established either by execution of a Voluntary Paternity Affidavit (VAP) or by judicial process. If Indiana receives an intergovernmental request to establish paternity, the judicial process is utilized. Required 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 birth certificate is helpful, but the process can move forward without it **IF** question #5 on the third page of the Declaration in Support of Establishing Parentage, “Is any person other than the birth mother named on the child’s birth certificate” is marked no. If it is marked yes, then the birth certificate is required.

***NOTE:** A separate Declaration in Support of Establishing Parentage is needed for each child.

- Child support is established exclusively through the judicial process. Required documentation includes:
 - Transmittal #1, Child Support Agency Confidential Information Form & Personal Information Form for UIFSA 311
 - Uniform Support Petition
 - General Testimony
 - Either a birth certificate or Verified Acknowledgement of Paternity (VAP) (referred to as a Paternity Affidavit in Indiana) showing the father’s name to demonstrate that paternity is not an issue.
- Indiana statute requires that a court, upon finding of paternity, shall at the same time make orders with regard to custody, parenting time, and child support. IC 31-14-10-1.
- A paternity action brought by the mother, an alleged father, or the IV-D agency must generally be filed not later than two (2) years after the birth of the child. However, a paternity action may be filed by the child or on behalf of the child as “next friend” at any time before the child reaches 20 years of age. IC 31-14-5-2 & 3.
- Child support established in connection with a paternity action may be ordered back to the child’s date of birth and must include the period dating from the filing date of the paternity action, at the discretion of the court. IC 31-14-11-5.

Modification or Adjustment and Review

- Modifications of child support must be by judicial order. There is no administrative process for adjustment or modification of child support. Indiana does not have an automatic Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) process. Required documentation includes:
 - Transmittal #1, Child Support Agency Confidential Information Form, Personal Information Form for UIFSA 311
 - General Testimony
- If the modification request is for an Indiana court order, then a record of any payments received by the initiating jurisdiction is needed as well as any other jurisdiction besides Indiana they are aware of. If the request for modification is for a court order from any other jurisdiction, then a Uniform Support Petition, Letter of Transmittal Requesting Registration, certified court order, and a certified statement of arrears (or certified payment history and arrears balance) is 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 at least one year has elapsed since the most recent child support order was issued and a new calculation of child support using the Indiana Child Support Guidelines would result in a greater than 20% increase or decrease from the current order. IC 31-16-8-1. Modifications may be made retroactive to the date the petition to modify was filed, but not earlier. IC 31-16-16-6.
- Indiana’s Child Support Rules and Guidelines are available at www.in.gov/judiciary/rules/child_support.
- Indiana’s child support calculator is available at www.in.gov/judiciary/2625.htm.

Medical Support

- Indiana 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. IC 31-16-6-4. Public health insurance, such as Medicaid or CHIP, may be used to satisfy this requirement. Indiana Child Support Guideline 7.
- Indiana's Child Support Guidelines establish a rebuttable presumption that health insurance is available at a reasonable cost. The parents bear the burden of demonstrating to the court the out-of-pocket cost of health insurance for the child(ren) exceeds 5% of the parents' combined gross incomes.
- The parents share responsibility for payment of uninsured health care expenses in proportion to their incomes. Indiana will send a National Medical Support Notice (NMSM) to an NCP's employer when an NCP is ordered to provide health insurance coverage. Indiana does not enforce medical support against custodial parents.
- Indiana does not enforce or establish Medical Only orders. All requests must be in conjunction with a child support order.
- Indiana does not seek to establish or enforce orders for the recovery of prenatal and birth expenses.

Termination of Support – Law and Process

- Indiana generally considers a child emancipated, and current support terminated, upon the child's 19th birthday. IC 31-16-6-6. Under certain conditions, however, a child's emancipation may extend beyond the child's 19th birthday if the court finds the child is incapacitated. In such a case, child support continues during the incapacity or until further order of the court.
- Additionally, a parent whose child is enrolled in secondary school (high school) full time beyond age 19 may petition the court to continue support. Such petitions must be filed before the child's 19th birthday. On the other hand, emancipation occurs prior to the child's 19th birthday upon the court's finding that:
 - the child: (A) is at least eighteen (18) years of age; (B) has not attended a secondary school or post-secondary educational institution for the prior four (4) months and is not enrolled in a secondary school or post-secondary educational institution; and (C) is, or is capable of, supporting himself or herself through employment (all must apply). Note that under these circumstances, a court may find that a child is only partially capable of self-support and order the current support obligation modified rather than terminated; or
 - the child: (A) is on active duty in the United States armed services; (B) has married; or (C) is not under the control of either parent (or agency or individual approved by the court) and the child is in fact 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 Indiana requires a subsequent court order. Current support will not automatically terminate simply due to the child's enlistment in the armed forces, marriage, or death.
- ISETS stops charging current support on IV-D cases automatically the month after the child (or the youngest child on the case) turns 19. Most Indiana 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.
- The Indiana statute regarding the termination of support and emancipation can be accessed on the Intergovernmental Reference Guide (IRG). If support was terminated by a court order, the county clerk can provide a copy of the order.

Case Closure and Non-IV-D Cases

- Closed cases remain in ISETS. Some closed case information is archived periodically but can be restored overnight.
- ISETS maintains both IV-D and non-IV-D cases. Copies of court orders for IV-D and non-IV-D cases are retained in the local clerk of court offices.
- Indiana 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 Indiana has 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 not be automatically terminated. Payments will still be processed through ISETS. If Indiana is not the issuing order state and Indiana is asked to close the Indiana IV-D case by another state, a payment record is sent to that state, balances are removed from ISETS, and the case is closed.

Interest, Fees & Costs

- Indiana's general interest statute permits charging of 8% interest on past-due child support. IC 24-4.6-1-101. Indiana also has an interest statute specific to child support which permits a court to order up to 18% per annum interest. IC 31-16-12-2.
- Whether or not to charge interest on past due child support is left to county discretion and is not widely used. If interest is ordered on a IV-D case, it will be documented in the court's order and the Prosecutor's office will enforce it.
- Indiana may require additional documentation regarding other state fees, interest, etc., before collecting those charges.

Enforcement

Administrative:

- The following administrative remedies are initiated automatically, once eligibility criteria are met:
 - Federal & State Tax Offsets
 - Administrative Offsets
 - e-IWO
 - Withholding from Unemployment Compensation
 - Casino / Gaming
 - Motor Vehicle Liens
 - Passport Denial
 - Child Support Lien Network (CSLN) for Insurance Matches Only
 - Fantasy Sports: Indiana is able to intercept certain eligible winnings of delinquent NCPs from Fantasy Sports operators who have registered within the State of Indiana (i.e. Fan Duel, Draft Kings, Yahoo Sports, etc.)
 - Sports Wagering: Indiana has sports wagering and provides for withholding from winnings of greater than \$600 from NCPs with delinquent support.
- The following administrative remedies are initiated automatically, once eligibility criteria are met but require manual intervention for completion:
 - Credit Bureau Reporting
 - Income Withholding
 - Lottery Intercepts
 - OCSE Insurance Match
 - Unclaimed Property Intercept
- The following administrative enforcements are initiated at the discretion of the county Prosecutor's office, once eligibility criteria are met:
 - Driver's License Suspension
 - Hunting & Fishing License Suspension
 - Professional License Suspension
 - Real Property Liens
 - FIDM Matches (receiving matches is automated and put in a report for county review)
 - Note:** Indiana uses IWO to collect past due child support from financial accounts. If an Indiana financial institution will not accept an out-of-state freeze and seize order, Indiana CSB will accept a UIFSA requesting FIDM only. 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 a statement of arrears with the balance to be collected to ICRU via EDE as a CT1 or by fax. Notate in the comment section that you are requesting FIDM only, not full enforcement.
 - Indiana has an automated non-compliance process for IWO & e-IWO that is administered at the state level.

Judicial:

- **Civil contempt** – Enforcement by civil contempt is widely used. County Prosecutors 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 Indiana 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.)
- **Criminal non-support** – There is no minimum amount of arrears required to bring a criminal non-support action. Nonsupport of a Dependent Child is a Level 6 felony which increases to a Level 5 felony if the Defendant has been convicted of a prior offense of Nonsupport under IC 35-46-1-5.

Courts may also order Driver's License Suspension and Professional License Suspension independently of our administrative remedies.

Special Enforcement Notes:

- It is at the discretion of local IV-D Prosecutor offices whether out-of-state orders must be registered before enforcement begins.
- **Direct Unemployment Compensation (UC) Withholding:** Indiana accepts requests for direct Unemployment Income Withholding Only from other states. An IWO issued to Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) should be sent c/o Indiana CSB, ATTN: CEU to the Central Registry. NOTE: If a direct IWO has been sent to Indiana, it is the responsibility of the jurisdiction making the request to send a stop or termination IWO once the case closes as the IWO stays in effect. Without this, if the NCP collects UC in the future, DWD will withhold the funds again. See the IRG for more details.
- Direct withholding of workers' compensation benefits is available. Interstate enforcement is not necessary for the withholding from workers' compensation as you may send an IWO directly to the insurance carrier.
- **Statute of Limitations:** An action to enforce a child support obligation must commence no later than ten (10) years after the child's eighteenth birthday or the child's emancipation, whichever occurs first. IC 34-11-2-10. However, if arrears are reduced to a judgment, a general judgment statute applies and provides at least 20 years from the date of the judgment to commence enforcement action. IC 34-11-2-12.

Incarcerated Parents

- Paternity and support can be established while an NCP is incarcerated.
- The support amount must be based upon the inmate's actual income while incarcerated, not the inmate's actual or imputed earning ability prior to incarceration. It is common for courts to enter zero-dollar support orders 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. IC 31-16-8-1. There is no automatic abatement of support; a petition to modify must be filed with the court. IC 31-16-8-4.
- 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.
- Indiana's SDU processes payments for IV-D and non-IV-D cases through ISETS.
- Indiana is not a future pay state. Future payments and overpayments can be held for a short time and are automatically disbursed when the case charges again at the beginning of the month.
- **Ways to Pay:** Indiana now partners with MoneyGram and PayNearMe to accept cash child support payments at participating outlets nationwide. There are convenience fees for these services.

Change of “Payee” vs Redirection

- Changes of payee due to changes of physical or legal custody must be done by court order. Court orders do not “follow” the child in Indiana. Either a modification of the existing order or establishment of a new one is necessary. It is at the discretion of the county courts which option they choose. Proof of legal custody should be included with all requests unless the custodial party is actively receiving TANF (IV-A) assistance, or it is a IV-E funded foster care case.

IV-D Policy Manual

Indiana has updated its Title IV-D Policy Manual, and it has been fully digitized. The manual is available on-line at <https://www.in.gov/dcs/policies/child-support-bureau-policies/>.

Computer System Information and Status and Usage of Portal Communication Tools

- Indiana’s statewide system is currently ISETS (Indiana Support Enforcement Tracking System).
- Payment Records in ISETS do not provide arrears balances; they only reflect total case distribution of monies that have been collected. A specific request needs to be made for arrearages that are due.
- Indiana uses the following State Services Portal applications:
 - **EDE:** All 92 county IV-D Prosecutors, County Clerks, Central Registry and State CSB Units are using EDE extensively. All responding UIFSA packets are received by ICRU and sent to the local IV-D office through EDE. Documents that are certified or have original signatures are sent via EDE only. EDE is regularly checked for incoming requests from other states that are not assigned to a specific county for processing. Other states are encouraged to send UIFSAs to Indiana via EDE. Please combine all documents into one CT1 using Locator (FIPS) Code 000. It is not necessary to mail copies of documents unless specifically requested by the local IV-D office for a particular case.
 - **QUICK:** All 92 county IV-D Prosecutors and the Central Registry have access to and are extensively using QUICK.
 - **CSENET:** CSENet is used with sporadic success. Some counties are not able to use CSENet to receive unexpected communication due to the case load assignments, as their caseloads are distributed by process, not participant name. If no response is received in a timely manner, it is highly suggested that an alternate means of communication be used.
 - **Communication Center:** Indiana is actively using the Communication Center.
- Indiana’s child support website is at <https://www.in.gov/dcs/child-support/>
 - NCPs can make credit/debit card payments on-line and can view the most recent five payments posted.
 - CPs can view the most recent five payments disbursed.

Intergovernmental Problem-Solving

- For copies of court orders, contact the Clerk of Court in the county where the support order was issued. If the county is unknown, contact ICRU for assistance.
- For non-certified copies of Indiana paternity affidavits, contact ICRU.
- Indiana IV-D offices do not have access to birth certificates, certified copies of paternity affidavits, marriage licenses, or death certificates. To obtain copies of these documents, please contact the Indiana State Department of Health directly. Please refer to this website for complete details and instructions, including costs <http://www.in.gov/isdh/25664.htm>. For intergovernmental problems or questions, email ICRU at Indiana.ICRU@dcs.IN.gov or call (317) 232-3447.

Parenting Time Initiatives

- Parenting Time Help Line: Indiana uses the federal Access & Visitation grant to fund a state-wide, toll-free Parenting Time Help Line staffed by licensed and trained attorneys who provide information about Indiana’s Parenting Time Guidelines and referrals as needed.
- Online Parenting Time Calendar: Indiana worked with the Supreme Court’s Judicial Center to develop an on-line parenting time tool to assist parents, attorneys, and courts with developing parenting time plans. The online tool can be accessed from the following link: <https://public.courts.in.gov/PTC#/>.