



HANDBOOK FOR
NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

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INTRODUCTION

Every day in the United States, thousands of children are born to unmarried parents.

Most of these parents, like most married parents, heartily and lovingly welcome their child into their lives

and into their world. However, parents who are young, poor, unemployed, underemployed or unable to work face particularly complicated problems and concerns.

This handbook is written to help non-custodial parents understand the most common legal, financial and parenting issues related to child support and paternity. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) believes that children do better when they have the love and support of both parents, and this guide is designed with that in mind.

What is a non-custodial parent? Simply put, it's the parent without custody of his or her child. In legal terms, a parent is considered non-custodial only after a court order gives the other parent the right to establish the primary residence for a child, commonly called custody. Most people think of the father as the non-custodial parent, but mothers can be non-custodial parents, too. In Texas, about 95 percent of non-custodial parents are fathers; therefore most of the information in this guide is written for them.

LEGAL services

If they could afford to, most people would hire a lawyer to handle matters like establishing paternity, setting child support orders, and developing an order establishing conservatorship, possession and access (what most people call custody and visitation). Many parents cannot afford to hire a private attorney. To help those parents, the OAG distributes this handbook in order to provide basic information about paternity establishment, child support, conservatorship and possession orders. It is *not* meant to take the place of legal counsel.

The Child Support Division of the OAG is the public child support agency for the State of Texas. Attorneys from the Child Support Division represent the interests of the State. They do not represent the custodial parent, the non-custodial parent or the child. Either parent can apply for paternity establishment and child support services.

TEN THINGS

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NON-CUSTODIAL

non-custodial

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW


parents should know

ABOUT PATERNITY AND

about paternity and

CHILD SUPPORT

child support

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1. Your paternity or child support case will be decided without you if you do not respond to a court summons. You can be named the legal father and ordered to pay child support even if you don't go to court.
 2. If you are not married to the mother of your child, you must establish paternity – either by signing an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP) with the mother of your child or by going to court – in order to have any legal rights. A father's name on the child's birth certificate does not establish a legal relationship.
 3. Understand the consequences of signing a legal document *before* you sign. Once a legal document is signed and filed, it is very difficult (sometimes impossible) to change, and it is almost always costly.

4. The OAG does not represent the custodial parent – the OAG represents the State of Texas.
5. You may open a case to establish paternity, determine conservatorship and visitation, and establish a court order for child and medical support.
6. You should provide as much information as you can to the OAG about your financial situation so that your support order can be set at a realistic amount.
7. If a situation arises and you cannot pay the full amount of your child support, you should still pay something. A partial payment shows that you are at least making an effort. More importantly, consistent payment is a way to show your child that you are committed to supporting him or her.
8. You may request a review and adjustment of your child support amount if your income changes substantially.
9. Avoiding child support will only make matters worse. Unpaid child support doesn't go away when your child turns 18, or if you declare bankruptcy, go to jail or move to another state. Unpaid child support incurs a six percent interest penalty. That means the amount you owe only gets bigger with each month it goes unpaid.
10. If your child comes to live with you, notify the child support office and request a change of status. You should keep paying child support until you are told by the OAG or the court that you are no longer required to do so.

PATERNITY establishment

What does “paternity” mean?

Both legally and biologically, the word “paternity” means fatherhood. In Texas, if a biological father is not married to the mother of his child, he is not considered to be the legal father of his child until paternity is established through a legal process. Until paternity is established, the father has no legal rights with his child and his child has no legal connection to him.

A man who is married to the mother of his child at the time of his child’s birth is presumed to be the legal father of that child. He has legal rights because he is married to the mother.

Why does paternity matter?

There are many reasons unmarried parents establish paternity. The most common reasons are:

- The parents want the father’s name on their baby’s birth certificate. If the parents are not married at the time of the child’s birth, paternity has to be established before the father’s name can go on the birth certificate.
- The parents want to protect their child’s rights to important legal and financial benefits from the father. Examples include Social Security, military dependent benefits, health insurance and inheritance.
- The parents want to protect the father’s legal connection to their child and the child’s legal connection to

the father. If a father has not established paternity, and something happens to the mother and she cannot care for the child, the child may go into foster care or other state-ordered custody instead of staying with the father.

How is paternity established?

When parents are not married to each other, there are two ways to establish paternity:

1) Acknowledgment of Paternity: The simplest and fastest way is for both biological parents to voluntarily sign an Acknowledgment of Paternity form (AOP). Parents should only do this if they are both certain the man is the father. Many parents will sign the AOP at the hospital when their child is born, but parents can also sign an AOP for their child by going to an OAG child support office, a county clerk's office or the Vital Statistics Unit at the Department of State Health Services. An AOP can be completed before the child is born as well as any time after the child is born (and before there is a court order of paternity).

2) Court Order: If parents aren't absolutely certain who the father is, or if one parent does not want to establish paternity voluntarily, then paternity can be established through a court order that can include genetic (paternity) testing. The OAG can help parents who want to use genetic testing to establish paternity. Genetic tests through the OAG cost less (under \$200) than through

most labs, and fees are not charged until the test is complete and the father is confirmed. In most cases, the non-custodial parent will be required to pay the fees, and those fees can be paid over a period of months.

Court orders can be obtained in one of two ways:

- The easiest way is through a meeting with both parents in a child support office, called the Child Support Review Process (CSRP). In the CSRP, parents can still request genetic testing, but they must agree on other issues like the child support amount, medical support and visitation. The child support office will obtain a judge's signature on the order agreed to during the CSRP.
- The other way is to go to court and appear before the judge, who will review the evidence and make a ruling regarding paternity and child support.

If you receive a court summons identifying you as the father of a child (either the mother or the State claims that you are the father), you must respond to the court or to the OAG before the court date on the summons or you may be made the legal father of the named child by **default**. If this happens, you are legally and financially responsible for the child. Child support will be ordered and you will be required to pay. Many men think that if they don't show up in court, nothing can happen and they can't be made to pay support. **This belief is absolutely false.** If, for any reason, you cannot appear in court, you must file an answer (a simple written response) stating that you are not the father of the child and you would like a genetic test. *The answer must be filed with the court and with the OAG before the court date.*

What are the legal benefits of establishing paternity?

For Unwed Fathers:

- Establishing paternity creates a legal relationship between you and your child. If paternity is not established, you have no rights as a father.
- You will have all the rights and responsibilities of a father who was married to the mother. This includes the right to share in decisions about your child, access to your child's medical and educational records, the right to consent to emergency medical treatment, and the right to attend school activities.

- You will have the right to ask the court for specific days and hours of visitation if you and the mother are no longer together and cannot agree on visitation.
- Your name can go on your child's birth certificate.

For Children:

- Your child is eligible to receive Social Security, military and veteran's benefits you may have earned.
- If you have medical insurance, your child may be eligible to receive it as well.
- Your child will benefit by knowing you legally claimed him or her.
- Your child will have your name on his or her birth certificate.

I did not sign an AOP at the hospital when my child was born. Can I sign one now and still have my name put on the birth certificate?

Yes. If you and the child's mother are in agreement and want to sign an AOP, you can do it no matter the age of your child. If you didn't sign the AOP at the hospital and want to add your name to the birth certificate, you will have to file a special form with the Texas Vital Statistics Unit (VSU) along with a completed AOP. The form, called Application for a New Birth Certificate Based on Parentage, requires a filing fee of \$25 plus an additional fee of \$22 for a new birth certificate. All OAG child support offices and local birth registrars have specially trained staff to help parents complete the AOP. **Call (866) 255-2006 for a list of locations near you.**

I was not married to the mother of my child and I am an undocumented immigrant. I want to be declared the legal father of my child. What should I do?

Legal immigration status is not a requirement for establishing paternity. You have the same opportunities available to you as are available to any other unwed father regarding establishing paternity:

- You and your child's mother may sign an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP) form.
- You may go to court and appear before the judge. He or she will review the evidence and make a ruling regarding paternity and child support.
- You may open a child support case and participate in a Child Support Review Process (CSRP).

If I am under 18, can I still establish paternity using an Acknowledgment of Paternity form?

Yes. Minors can complete an AOP, and it is legally binding.

What if, after signing the Acknowledgment of Paternity, I have reason to believe I am not the father?

If you sign an AOP and later decide you may not be the father, there are ways to withdraw your signature. This is most easily done within 60 days of signing. After 60 days, the requirements for withdrawing your name are more difficult to meet.

If, within 60 days after the form is filed with the Vital Statistics Unit, either the mother or you decide to withdraw this acknowledgment, you have two options:

1) You can file a legal document known as a Petition to Rescind. You may only file a Petition to Rescind if you have not been part of a court case concerning the paternity of the child. If both you and the mother agree that you are not the father, after you file the Petition to Rescind, the court can declare that you are not the father. However, the court may hold a hearing to consider other evidence to determine if you are the father. If the child's mother receives welfare benefits, the State must also be at the hearing. If there is not agreement as to whether you are the father, the court will hold a hearing to determine whether you are the father. Rescinding an AOP will likely require the assistance of an attorney.

2) If you are summoned to a court proceeding about the child within 60 days of signing the AOP, you may ask the court to withdraw the AOP. The court will then decide whether to grant your request.

What if 60 days have passed since the mother and I signed the Acknowledgment of Paternity and I realize that I may not be the biological father of the child?

If after the 60-day period expires you no longer believe that you are the child's father, you will have to go to court and file a lawsuit to contest the Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP). To contest an AOP, you must prove that the document was signed under conditions of fraud

(someone lied in signing the document), duress (you were forced to sign), or mistake of fact (you thought one thing and another thing is true). The judge will consider this evidence along with what is in the child's best interest before making a ruling. Additionally, you must file a lawsuit to contest the AOP within four years of the form's filing. Contesting an AOP will likely require the assistance of an attorney.

What if the mother says I am the father, but I don't think I am, and we were never married?

If you do not think that you are the biological father and you have not signed an Acknowledgment of Paternity, a suit can be brought against you to establish that you are the father. The mother, child, or State can sue to establish whether you are the biological father. You should request paternity testing to determine if you are the father.

If I'm sued to establish paternity, why should I have to go to court if I know I'm not the father?

In Texas, if you refuse to go to court after being served for a paternity hearing, the court can declare you to be the father of the child. This order is called a default order and may include an order to pay child support and medical support. By not going to court, you lose your ability to contest the suit.

Why would a mother force me to go through the legal process of establishing that I am the father?

In some cases, a mother who is receiving welfare benefits is required by the State to help establish paternity

for her child. A mother may also want to establish paternity (legal fatherhood) as a way of protecting the legal rights a child gains by having a legal father.

Establishing the legal father of a child offers benefits for everyone involved. For example, the child gains a sense of identity once a legal father has been named. You will have the right to ask the court for visitation if you are determined to be the legal father. The mother will be able to receive financial assistance to help care for your child.

What should I expect if a mother claims I am the father of a child, but I say I'm not and she takes me to court?

Every case is different and there is no set list for what to expect when parents disagree on paternity and a lawsuit is filed.

When you appear in court, it will be in front of a judge or an associate judge. The court is supposed to provide an interpreter at no charge for any father who does not speak English, or for a father who is deaf.

You have the right to hire and be represented by a private attorney at any stage of a paternity trial. The mother also has the right to hire and be represented by a private attorney at any stage of a paternity trial. *The child support attorney from the OAG represents the interests of the State.*

A big part of any paternity suit is the genetic test. You, the State, or any other party has the right to request a paternity test. Testing will be done by a laboratory identified by the court or the OAG and most likely will be done before the date of the hearing. The State may pay for the test. However, if it is determined that you are the father, the court may order you to repay the State for the cost of the test.

If the court determines that you are the father of the child, you are likely to be ordered to pay child support and medical support. The order will also address the issues of custody and visitation. The court is required to consider your wishes when determining these issues. *If you wish to spend time with your child, it is important that you tell the court your wishes.*

How important are genetic tests in paternity cases?

The results of the genetic test generally determine what the court rules. If the genetic test excludes you as the possible father, the court will rule that you are not the father. If the genetic test indicates that there is a 99 percent or better chance that you are the father, you will have the burden to prove that you are not the father.

Can this be handled without going to court?

Yes. Instead of going to court, paternity can be established and child support set in a child support office through the Child Support Review Process (CSRP). If you have not acknowledged paternity, you can ask for a genetic test. You and the other parent will not have to go to court if

there is an agreement concerning child support, medical support, conservatorship and visitation, and everyone signs the agreed order. CSRP negotiations generally take 45 minutes to an hour and can be scheduled at times that are convenient for you and the other parent.

What is conservatorship? How are conservatorship and visitation determined?

Conservatorship simply means the rights and duties of a parent. Some people refer to this as custody. In Texas, the Family Code presumes that parents will be *joint managing conservators* (they will share the rights and duties) as long as it is in the best interest of the child. The court may not grant joint managing conservatorship in cases involving family violence or in cases where one parent has not shown the ability to act in the child's best interest. Usually one parent (the custodial parent) is given the primary right to determine a child's residence.

Visitation (periods of possession) is also based on the court's determination of the child's best interest. The presumption in Texas is the Standard Possession Order.

For parents who live within 100 miles of each other, the non-custodial parent has visitation

- first, third, and fifth weekends of every month
- Thursday evenings of each week
- alternating holidays (such as Thanksgiving every other year)

- an extended period of time (30 days) during the summer vacation

For parents who live more than 100 miles apart

- the weekend schedule may remain the same or be one weekend per month
- there is no mid-week visitation time
- the holiday schedule remains the same (alternating holidays)
- the child(ren) will be with the non-custodial parent every spring break and for a longer extended period in the summer (42 days)

The court may modify the Standard Possession Order based on the child's best interest. For example, if the child is very young (under three), or if the non-custodial parent has had very little or no previous contact with the child, it is generally not considered in the child's best interest to be placed immediately in the non-custodial parent's care for extended periods of time. In those instances, the court may order a Modified Possession Order in which the visitation times start off shorter (maybe every Saturday for four hours) and then get longer and longer until the Standard Possession Order is reached. Once again, the ultimate concern of the court is to determine what is in the child's best interest.

How does the court determine what is in the child's best interest?

While a child's best interest is a difficult thing to measure, the family courts in Texas follow basic guidelines. Here are some things the court may consider when determining what is in a child's best interest:

- the desires of the child;
- the emotional and physical needs of the child now and in the future;
- the emotional and physical danger to the child now and in the future;
- the parenting abilities of the individuals seeking custody;
- the programs available to assist these individuals in promoting the best interest of the child;
- the plans for the child by these individuals or by the agency seeking custody;
- the stability of the home or proposed placement;
- the acts or omissions of the parent, which may indicate that the existing parent-child relationship is or is not a proper one; and
- any excuse for the acts or omissions of the parent.

She says it is not my baby, and she won't let me have visitation. What should I do?

If you are not married to the mother of your child and paternity has not been established, you can file a petition with the court asking that you be declared the child's legal father. You can also open a case and ask the

Child Support Division of the OAG to begin the process of establishing you as the legal father of the child. *It is important to remember that the child support attorney from the OAG represents the State, not you, not the mother, and not your child.* If you can afford one, you have the right to be represented by an attorney at any stage of the paternity process. If the mother can afford one, the mother also has the right to be represented by an attorney at any stage of the paternity process.

The first step most men take is requesting a genetic test for the mother, the child and themselves. If you request the tests, the court will order each of you to take one. If the parties submit to genetic testing, the results of those tests will be a part of the paternity trial.

If the court determines you are the legal father of the child, it is likely that you will be ordered to pay child support and medical support. The court will also determine conservatorship and visitation. *It is important to make your wishes regarding custody and visitation known during the hearing.*

I am not married to the woman who is pregnant with my child. Could someone else adopt the baby without my permission?

Yes. Texas law requires unmarried fathers to act *very quickly* to avoid losing their rights if the child is placed for adoption. You must legally establish paternity. If you have not legally established paternity, you should register with the State's registry of paternity located

at the Vital Statistics Unit in the Department of State Health Services:

Paternity Registry

Vital Statistics

Texas Department of State Health Services

1100 West 49th Street

Austin, TX 78756-3199

Call toll-free 1(888)963-7111 ext. 7782

You can register before the baby is born, but you must register *no later than* 31 days after the birth of the child. You will not be charged any money for registering with the Paternity Registry. Not registering can have serious consequences. It may lead to your parental rights being terminated if you cannot be located. If you do not register, you will be notified of a potential adoption only if you have filed a suit to establish paternity before your parental rights are terminated.

I was worried that the mother of my child would place our child for adoption. I registered with the Paternity Registry within 31 days of the child's birth. Is there anything else that I need to do to make sure that my parental rights are not terminated and that she cannot place the child for adoption?

Yes. You should notify the Paternity Registry *any* time there is a change in any of the information you provided to the registry. In particular, you should inform the paternity registry *anytime you change your address*.

If you do not tell the Paternity Registry of your address change, the mother of your child may be able to get a court order to terminate your parental rights without your knowledge. The mother is able to do this if she is not able to provide you with the required notification. Once your parental rights are terminated, your child may be adopted without your receiving notice or having the right to object to the adoption.

CHILD

child

SUPPORT

support



How do I make my child support payments?

The usual method for payment of child support is to have money taken directly from your paycheck and sent to the State Disbursement Unit. If the court orders your employer to take money out of your paycheck for child support or medical support, your employer is required by law to do so. Texas employers can charge up to \$10 each month to withhold money from your paycheck for child support. Your employer cannot discriminate against you because of the child support withholding procedure. If your employer is not taking child sup-

port from your paycheck and sending it in, you are still responsible to pay the support. You should send payments (along with your 10 digit case ID number) directly to the State Disbursement Unit:

Texas Child Support Disbursement Unit (TxCSDU)

P. O. Box 659791

San Antonio, TX 78265-9791

How does the court decide how much child support I should pay?

Texas has established a formula to calculate the amount a non-custodial parent should pay for child support. If your net monthly income is less than \$7,500, Texas law has established the following guidelines for child support payments. The payment amount is based on your net income each month.

- 20 percent for one child
- 25 percent for two children
- 30 percent for three children
- 35 percent for four children
- 40 percent for five children
- Not less than 40 percent for six children

Special rules apply in cases of split or joint placement or multiple children in different households.

If a court believes that you are not making as much money as you should (for example, if you are capable of working 40 hours a week but are currently only working 10), the child support amount may be based on your earning potential. This is income that you could potentially earn.

I have children who have different mothers. We are going to court to determine the amount of support that I should pay to one of the mothers of my children. How will the court determine the amount of child support that I owe?

When you have children in different households, the court uses a multiple household formula to determine the amount of support you must pay. It is important that you let the judge or child support review officer know that you support other children who have a different mother.

What if I cannot afford to pay the amount that is determined by the child support guidelines?

You may ask the court to award a greater or lesser amount than what would be determined by the child support guidelines. To do this, you must convince the court that the guidelines are unjust or inappropriate in your case. In determining whether the amount of child support determined by the guidelines is inappropriate or unjust, the court will look at many factors including the age and needs of your child, child care expenses incurred by you or the mother in order to work, and any other factor consistent with the best interest of your child.

In Texas, the parties may sign a written agreement that differs from the child support guidelines. If your child's mother receives welfare benefits, the child support attorney will also have to agree to any amount that differs from the child support guidelines. It may be difficult to get a child support attorney to agree to this. If the

court agrees with the decision concerning the amount of child support, the court will enter the agreement as an enforceable order of the court. However, the court must find that the written agreement serves the best interest of your child.

Child support generally continues until the child's 18th birthday or until the child graduates from high school, whichever occurs later.

I'm paying child support. Why do I have to pay medical support, too?

Medical support and child support are separate obligations the court may require of either or both parents. The Texas Family Code guidelines used for setting current child support assume the person paying support will also be paying for health insurance for the child. If the custodial parent is to provide health insurance coverage, the court will order you to pay additional support in the form of cash medical support.

How did the court determine the amount of child support I owe if I was not there and they did not know my income?

If you do not show up, a child support order can still be entered. If your current or past income is not known, the support order may be based on your working 40 hours per week at a job that pays the federal minimum wage.

Why is the amount I am required to pay greater than my weekly child support amount?

There are many reasons the amount of money you pay each week can be greater than what is stated in your order. For example, you may have fallen behind in paying your child support. When you fall behind in your child support payments, you will have to pay your current amount of support plus an additional amount to cover what you were unable to pay in the past. You will also be charged interest at the rate of six percent per year on any past due child support.

Also, you could be charged with other costs, such as the mother's medical bills during her pregnancy, the child's health care expenses, paternity tests, attorney's fees and court costs. In addition, you may be charged up to \$10 every month that your employer takes money from your paycheck to provide support.

Any or all of these costs may be added to the amount that you owe each month.

What if I directly pay for things that my child needs, such as diapers, instead of paying the money through the child support agency?

It is unlikely that any payments other than those required by the court will count as payment of child support. If you give the child or the child's mother something directly, you will still owe the full amount of court-ordered child support. The court will likely consider what you give to the mother to be a gift to the child.

What if I lose my job or I am unable to pay child support?

If you lose your job, make less money than you used to, or become physically disabled and unable to earn an income, you should notify the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the court immediately. However, simply telling the court clerk or the Child Support Division of the OAG is not enough to reduce the amount of child support you owe. You must obtain a new order from the judge. Many people will go to a lawyer for assistance with a modification, but you can also ask for assistance from the OAG child support office handling your case.

At a hearing, the judge may modify the amount of child support you pay in two situations:

- if there has been a substantial change in circumstances that affects your ability to pay child support; or
- if it has been three years since the child support order was created or modified and the amount you pay differs by 20 percent or \$100 from the amount you would pay, according to the child support guidelines, based on your current income.

The court may also order you to seek employment or participate in an employment-training program, such as those offered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Many non-custodial parents believe that if they fall behind on their child support payments for a legitimate reason, the court will reduce or dismiss what is owed once an explanation is given. **This is not true.** If you wait to explain your changed circumstances, the court will not be able to reduce the back payments you owe. It is **very important** that you notify the court immediately, provide proof of the reduction in income, and ask that your payments be reduced accordingly. If you do this, the court may temporarily or permanently reduce the amount of future payments.

How will my being placed in jail affect the amount of support I owe for the time I am incarcerated?

Your child support order will continue unchanged while you are in jail. You will need to petition the court to ask for a reduction in your child support amount based on what you can earn while in jail or in prison. It is up to the court to determine whether to decrease your child support because you have been imprisoned.

Are there any services available to help me get a job so that I can pay my child support?

The Attorney General's Child Support Division can direct you toward skills training and job placement services through the Texas Workforce Commission. The child support agency can also refer you to education and literacy classes as well as counseling services for substance abuse and for parenting skills. In many cases,

the court will order a father who is behind on his child support payments to take part in one or more of these services. If you have been ordered to attend any of these programs and you do not complete them, the court may impose sanctions on you, including suspension of your driver's license and/or jail.

Can I be put in jail for not paying child support?

Yes. You may be placed in jail for up to six months for not paying child support. The legal basis for placing you in jail is "contempt of court." Contempt of court is a legal term that means you are not following a court order. You may also be fined up to \$500 for each violation and have to pay attorney's fees and court costs.

You have the right to be represented by an attorney throughout a contempt proceeding. If the following conditions are satisfied, you also have the right for the government to provide you with that attorney free of charge:

- 1) You must prove that your income is very low or you have no income; and
- 2) The result of the hearing must be that you are likely to be placed in jail.

In some cases, the law allows you to be imprisoned for a specific amount of time and/or pay a fine. This happens when you are criminally prosecuted and imprisoned for nonpayment, which is a felony. As of Sept. 1, 1999, a felony conviction is sufficient to deport someone who is not a citizen of the United States.

My child support order was reduced during my prison term. When I get released from prison, what might happen to the amount of money that I will owe in child support?

If your child support order was reduced while you were in prison, your release is considered a material and substantial change in circumstances. When there is a material and substantial change in circumstance, the court may change your child support order. As a result, the amount you pay in child support will likely increase to reflect your earnings after your release from prison.

Before there will be an increase in your child support amount, the court will have to be asked and agree to change the amount of child support you owe.

If the child's mother interferes with visitation, may I refuse to pay court-ordered child support?

No. You must pay your court-ordered child support regardless of whether you have access to your child for visitation.

If you need assistance seeing your child, please contact The Texas Access and Visitation Hotline at 1-(866)-292-4636 (Monday - Friday, 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.).

How does not paying my child support affect my right to see my child?

Child support and visitation are separate issues. Not paying child support should not affect your ability to see your child. **There are many other penalties that are likely to occur if you do not pay child support.**

Some of these penalties include: posting your picture in private and public locations and in the news, revoking your driver's license, taking your tax refunds, denying occupational licenses, denying you state loans or grants, and placing you in jail.

For information on services provided by the Attorney General's Child Support Division, call **(800) 252-8014** or visit the OAG's Web site at:

www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.



GREG ABBOTT
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CONTACT information

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Austin, TX 78711-2017

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E-mail - child.support@oag.state.tx.us

BY TELEPHONE

REGIONAL CALL CENTERS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
Harris County: (713) 243-7100
Dallas/Tarrant County: (972) 339-3100
Bexar County: (210) 841-8450
Travis County: (512) 514-7000
Lubbock: (806) 765-0094
McAllen: (956) 682-5581
Tyler: (903) 595-6900
El Paso: (915) 779-2388

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