

# Direct Deposit: Convenient Way to Receive Child Support Payments



By **Greg Abbott**  
Attorney General of Texas

In recognition of National Direct Deposit Month, I am reminding parents who get their child support checks from the Attorney General's Office to enroll

in direct deposit.

Direct deposit provides a safe, fast and convenient method for receiving child support that mothers and fathers depend on to feed and clothe their children. For parents with checking or savings accounts, direct deposit is the preferred method for obtaining child support payments because it:

- Saves time and money by eliminating trips to the bank and check-cashing fees;
- Eliminates mail time and checks lost in the mail;
- Reduces the risk of check theft; and
- Saves taxpayers money, by eliminating costs associated with printing and mailing child support checks. It costs \$1.32 to produce and mail a check, compared to 40 cents for electronic delivery. Direct deposit has saved the state \$3.4 million since December 2001, when the service began.

Parents with personal bank accounts who receive their child support payments from the Texas State Disbursement Unit (TxCSDU) are eligible for direct deposit. Child support cases that involve a parent living in another country qualify for direct deposit if the parent with custody of the children has a bank account in the United States.

I encourage all eligible parents to sign up for direct deposit today. Parents can obtain a direct deposit authorization form by calling (800) 252-8014 or by visiting our Web site. Direct deposit authorization forms are also available at local child support field offices. To expedite the process, parents should provide their ten-digit case number on the authorization form, and include a voided check or deposit slip.

Parents who enroll in direct deposit should allow thirty days from the time we receive their authorization form for direct deposit to begin. To verify that the TxCSDU has electronically transmitted the payment to their financial institution, parents can contact us at (800) 252-8014 and/or their financial institution automated system. In most cases, funds will be available in a parent's bank account two to three business days after the child support payment is received at the TxCSDU.

For more information about the Office of the Attorney General and child support services, visit our Web site at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us).

## POINTS TO REMEMBER

### DIRECT DEPOSIT & CHILD SUPPORT

What are the benefits of direct deposit?

- Saves time and money by eliminating trips to the bank and check-cashing fees;
- Eliminates mail time and checks lost in the mail;
- Reduces the risk of check theft; and
- Saves taxpayers money, by eliminating costs associated with printing and mailing child support checks.

Who is eligible for direct deposit?

- Parents with personal bank accounts who receive their child support payments from the Texas Child Support State Disbursement Unit (TxCSDU)
- International child support cases, if the parent with custody of the children has a bank account in the United States

How do I obtain a direct deposit authorization form?

- Call (800) 252-8014
- Visit the Attorney General's Web site at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us)
- Contact a local child support field office



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Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General's Web site at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us).