

Child Support FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions About Child Support in Utah

walllegalsolutions.com/utah-child-support-faq/

Parents have a **legal obligation to support their children**, even if one or both the parents are not seeing or taking care of the children. Just like a majority of other state laws, Utah child support laws are based on the idea that a child is entitled to benefit from both parents in the same way they would if parents were living together. Additionally, it **encourages both parents to work together** in maintaining a cooperative agreement between both parties that work for the **best interests of the children**.



At **Wall & Wall Attorneys at Law**, we are located in SLC and have a team of **seasoned and skilled attorneys** that use their experience to help guide you through the child support process with ease. **Get in touch with us today** for any inquiries on **divorce** or **family law** related issues. Call Wall & Wall today at **801-948-2203** for a **free consultation**.

Below are commonly asked questions about [child support](#):

What Does Child Support Cover?

In Utah, the child support is used to cater for the **living expenses** of the child. **Some** of the basic items covered by in the child support cover include necessities such as **food, shelter, medical expenses, health insurance, and clothing**.

Aside from the basic needs, child support also caters to the other expenses like **day care, school expenses, travel/transportation, extracurricular activities** and more.

How Can I Find Out How Much Child Support I'll Have to Pay?

In Utah, the amount of child support is determined using a tool known as a “child support calculator.” Based on Utah’s child support guidelines, figures are plugged into the tool, and the amount of child support is determined.

What Happens If I Lose My Job?

In case there are **significant changes in either of the parent’s gross income**, the child support can be **altered** to reflect the changes. However, any financial changes need the backing of official documents such as bank account, tax returns, or a letter from the previous employer.

Will the Child Support Amount Change If I Move Out of State?

You can move away from Utah at free will, but can never move away from the child support obligations. This is because **relocation does not invalidate the court order**. Also, all the states work in cohesion to **ensure** that the

child support law is **upheld**.

How Do I Alter or Modify the Child Support Amount?

To have your **child support modified**, you need to fill out your court forms requesting for a court hearing, have the forms reviewed, and file them with the court clerk, and wait for a court date. **Since the child support is a court order, you have to fill in forms, and present them to a court of law for them to be reviewed.**

Can We Modify the Child Support Without Necessarily Going to a Judge?

Yes, there is. The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) clause in the child support **allows modification of the support payments each year** depending on the economic indicators like the consumer price index.

What Happens If My Ex Refuses to Make Child Support Payments?

Failing to comply with the child support guidelines is a contempt of court. When delinquent parents are taken to court, a judge may fine or jail the offender. It's also common to see judges demanding for the delinquent parents to pay the outstanding balance before they're released from jail.

What are Some of the Ways of Enforcing Child Support in Utah?

There are two major ways of ensuring that the child support is a successful operation. One is by using the Office of Recovery Services (ORS), and by use of courts.

What is Back Child Support?

Also known as retroactive child support, back child support refers to the **unpaid child support payments that were missed in the past**. You have to get a court order to receive back child support.

What Happens If the Courts Indicate that I Owe More Back Child Support than I Thought?

The best route to follow is to **check with the child support office in Utah**. Here, you'll be issued a statement that indicates how much arrearage you still owe. If it's not correct, you can **petition for the court** to fix your child support obligation. If it's right, you are obligated to pay the amount that is owed.

What are Some of the Child Support Payment Methods?

The two major payments methods include; indirect payment and direct payment. Indirect payment involves **paying to third party institutions**, i.e., paying for school fee to an institution rather than having the custodial parent do it. The direct payment methods include **online transfer, check, income withholdings, money orders** and **banks transfers**. Always **avoid cash** payments since they **lack concrete evidence of documentation**.

What Happens If One Parent Is in Jail?

If there's an existing child support order, **going to jail does not automatically end the support** until the court modifies it. If the jailed parent has income or assets, they may be used to cater for the child support. Some of the assets that might be considered include rental income, dividends, money from selling some of their assets and bonds.

Do I Need an Attorney for Child Support Issues?

While you do not necessarily require an attorney, divorce, marriage, child support and visitation are ***complex issues that are best handled by an experienced attorney.***