

# Uninsured Medical Expenses and Child Support in Utah

[walllegalsolutions.com/practiceareas/uninsured-medical-expenses-child-support-utah/](https://www.walllegalsolutions.com/practiceareas/uninsured-medical-expenses-child-support-utah/)

When it comes to keeping children healthy, it's normal for parents to debate the right way to go about it and **who should pay for what**. But things can get more complicated after a couple decides to **divorce**. Medical costs can skyrocket out of control even for parents who have the best insurance plans. When **out-of-pocket costs** start to mount up, divorced couples need to be ready for what comes next. **To ensure the well-being of the child in Utah, both parents are expected to pay for any uninsured medical expenses that may be accrued**. For further details about how parents should go about contributing their fair share, read the general guidelines of the law below.



## Common Medical Expenses

One of the most common expenses of children's healthcare is the **deductible** and the **co-pays**. Both of these expenses can start to mount if the child has to be brought in for constant appointments, or is suffering from a complicated illness. Other expenses may include **elective surgeries** that aren't covered by insurance, **dental work**, or **vision care**.

## Uninsured Medical Costs and Child Support Orders

**Child support** orders in Utah typically specify that the premium for a healthcare policy should be **shared by both parties**, as should additional uninsured medical costs. Orders in Utah stipulate that parents **must provide their child with health insurance** when it is available at a reasonable cost. If insurance is provided by a **public entity**, parents may be expected to pay a **cash medical support fee**. A cash medical support fee will also share any uninsured medical costs for the child.

## Medical Payment Specifics

The parent who incurred the charges is required to deliver **written notification to the other parent**. It needs to **specify all expenses** made associated with healthcare, and it has to be given to the other party **within 30 days of treatment**. The other parent may **make a payment directly to the provider or to the parent** unless otherwise specified by the court order. Parents should **never use cash** to pay the other parent. All checks or money orders need to be meticulously **recorded** in order to avoid a dispute.

## Child Support and Medical Payments

Essentially, **child support** covers all of the basic needs of the child, including a healthcare premium if the child has one, but **uninsured medical expenses are considered extra costs and paid separately**. Every month, the custodial parent gets a check to cover basic living expenses for the child, but the **healthcare insurance premium and any uninsured medical costs will be paid separate and apart from general child support**.

## Division of Medical Expenses

When parents initially file for divorce, they are expected to **split the costs of all health care** (including extraordinary expenses), at exactly **50/50**. Once the divorce is final, the decree will spell out **any exceptions** in payment distribution. For example, **if one parent agrees to shoulder a higher financial burden of the child's healthcare due to an income disparity**. Typically though, you can expect to split the costs down the middle regardless of extenuating circumstances. **If the decree does not mention** uninsured healthcare costs explicitly, then both parents agree to continue splitting the costs equally.

## Collection

If one party is unable to get the expenses from the other, it's up to the first party to **request the money from the second within 30 days**. If one party feels the medical care was unreasonable, they may **contest** their obligation to the court. So if one parent is being needlessly overprotective, then the court will take that into account before making a final decision. All parents are encouraged to **keep original bills and receipts** and to make copies of those documents for their files. Parents should do everything possible to resolve issues without the court's help, while still **complying with child support agreement**.

## Enforcement

Should the other party fail to provide the proper payments, the courts of Utah will typically **either seize property, garnish wages, or issue orders of contempt**. Courts may also **revoke driver's licenses** or **take away commercial business licenses**. You may even spend **time in jail** should you fail to provide the appropriate funds to the appropriate parties.

## Get Legal Help from SLC Wall & Wall Attorneys at Law Today

[Child support orders](#) can be complicated no matter how straightforward they may seem. If you have [questions](#) or extenuating circumstances, it may be time to give a [professional](#) a call. [Wall & Wall Attorneys at Law](#) have [over 190 years of experience](#) and can **help you navigate through your child support issues without confusion**. Get a [free consultation](#) by calling us at **801-639-9817** today!