

Child Support Services Fact Sheet

- Applying for Child Support in Colorado only requires that you visit the Colorado Division of Child Support Services [website](#) and click “apply for services.” You can also go to a local office in your county to fill out an application in person. There is no cost for applying for child support. It is completely free in Colorado! Any parent can apply for services regardless of how much they see or parent their child(ren). Once you apply, the DCSS office will gather some information around how much income each parent has coming in and a few other things. In Colorado both parents are expected to contribute to the well-being of the child(ren) financially regardless of who may parent the child most often.
- There is a way to make sure that someone who is incarcerated is not building up a huge debt of child support. That requires that the incarcerated person connect with the DCSS county office and make arrangements for paying a small amount each month so that when they get out, they aren’t overwhelmed by debt.
- Paternity is legally established by giving birth to the child, a court or administrative order, or a completed Acknowledgement of Parentage. It is determined, and presumed, if the parents were married at the time of the child's birth and the parents' names are on the birth certificate. The State wants to make sure all children have a legal father in their lives. It’s both parents’ responsibility to support their children (in all ways, not just financially). Establishing who the father of a child is not a punishment; it’s not an episode of the Maury show! It is a way to prevent kids from suffering in the ways that you’ve seen the interviewees discuss in the videos. There is something called an AOP, and acknowledgment of parentage, and that can be done very easily to ensure that a child has a legal father. It’s voluntary! Why? Because the father knows it will help their kid in the long run.

AOP Form

- If you are unsure that you are the “biological father,” you can request a genetic test prior to a child support order being established. After the order is in place it is much more difficult for it to be reversed.



- If parents are unable to support their children, the government will step in and provide temporary financial assistance.
- In Colorado, if a parent is receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits the receiving parent is able to receive both their TANF and child support payments (known as a pass through).