

Get Child Support Safely



Your Safety is a Priority



How do you feel?

- I feel safe around the other parent.
- I trust the other parent to respect me and not hurt me.
- I can safely pursue child support.
- I am comfortable with the other parent having parenting time with our children.
- I am comfortable meeting together with the other parent at the Child Support office.

If you answer **“No”** to any of these statements, you may want to talk privately with a child support worker about steps to help keep you and your children safe during this process.

Has the other parent?

- Accessed your finances.
- Put you down, yelled at you, called you names, or told you you're worthless.
- Threatened to harm your child or pets.
- Threatened you if you pursue child support.
- Monitored your activities (who you see, where you go) and/or your social media.
- Hit, slapped, kicked, pushed, or punched you, pulled your hair or in some way hurt you.
- Threatened or attempted suicide.
- Used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon.
- Forced or coerced you to do things sexually that made you uncomfortable.



These examples all suggest a potential for safety concerns that may be considered during the child support process. An additional safety concern is if you have an order of protection against the other parent. You can talk privately with a child support worker about resources, policies and procedures in place to help keep you and your children safe during this process.

Custodial parents may update information about safety at any time, even if they've previously indicated no concerns to their child support worker.

Situations change and safety is always a priority.

New York State is committed to the safety of all families. Many state agencies ask routine questions so the right services can be provided.

The Child Support Program can:

- Explain what actions can be taken to access services safely.
- Assist the custodial parent in achieving financial stability by having the noncustodial parent provide consistent and reliable financial support.
- Provide parents with helpful information that can assist families with housing, transportation, employment, and other support.

New York State's Child Support Program is committed to making this process as safe as possible for parents and their children. It is important to have both parents contribute to the economic well-being of their children.

The safety of families applying for or receiving child support services is critically important. There are parts of the child support process that may raise safety concerns. These processes may be modified or eliminated to help address these concerns.

You may have concerns that Child Protective Services (CPS) will become involved if you disclose family violence. Child Support workers focus on child support. They are only required to make a report to CPS if they have reasonable cause to suspect a child is being harmed or in imminent danger of harm. CPS is not involved in any decision to set or enforce child support.



Scan the QR Code to access
the Child Support Website

**If you need to talk to someone
immediately about safety:**

NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

TEXT.

844.997.2121

CALL.

800.942.6906

CHAT.

OPDV.NY.GOV

Free.Confidential.24/7
Available in Most Languages

Highly trained advocates are available to talk confidentially with anyone experiencing domestic or sexual violence, seeking resources or information, or questioning unhealthy aspects of their relationship.



**Office for the Prevention
of Domestic Violence**

**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

opdv.ny.gov

childsupport.ny.gov

OPDV Pub-61700 (02/22)

OTDA Pub-5194 (02/22)