

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



MEDICAL SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

441 4th Street N.W.

Suite 550N

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

PHONE: 202-442-9900

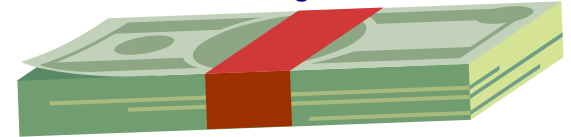
FAX: (202) 724-3710

www.cssd.dc.gov



What is the New Medical Support Law?

- The new law, D.C. Law 17-128, Child Support Compliance Amendment Act of 2007, provides that every child support order must contain a provision for medical support for each child (ren). This could be a provision for health insurance, cash medical support or both.
- In all cases where accessible health insurance coverage is available to either or both the non-custodial parent (“NCP”) and custodial parent (“CP”) at reasonable cost, the court shall order either or both parents to provide health insurance coverage.
- Under the new law, the court shall consider, at a minimum, the cost, comprehensiveness, and accessibility of all health insurance coverage options available to either parent when selecting among health insurance coverage options.
- If accessible health insurance coverage is not available to either parent at



reasonable cost, or where the medical expenses of a child are not fully covered by health insurance, the court shall order either or both parents to pay cash medical support.

How will Employers be Notified?

- The Child Support Services Division (“CSSD”) shall, when appropriate, submit a National Medical Support Notice (“NMSN”) to an employer when the support order requires either a CP, or NCP, or both parents to provide health insurance coverage for his/her dependent child (ren), and when the employer is known to CSSD, unless the support order directs enrollment of the child (ren) in alternative coverage.
- When a noncustodial parent is a newly hired employee entered in the D.C. Directory of New Hires (“NDNH”), and the support order requires the NCP to provide health insurance coverage for his/her dependent child (ren), CSSD shall submit the NMSN to the employer within 2 business days after the employee has been entered in the NDNH.



What are the New Medical Support Definitions?

- **Cash Medical Support:** An amount ordered to be paid toward the cost of health insurance provided by a public entity or by another parent, through employment or otherwise, or for extraordinary medical expenses or for other medical costs not covered by insurance.
- **Reasonable Health Insurance Coverage:** No longer work related. Health insurance coverage shall be considered reasonable in cost if the cost to the parent obligated to provide coverage does not exceed 5 percent of the parent's gross income.
- **Accessible Health Insurance Coverage:** Health insurance coverage shall be considered accessible if, based on the work history of the parent providing the coverage:
 - It will be available for at least one year, and
 - If the child lives within the geographical area covered by the plan, or

- Within 30 minutes or 30 miles of primary care services.
- **Comprehensive Health Insurance:** Health insurance coverage shall be considered comprehensive when it offers a broad and inclusive array of health insurance options. It applies to the following:
 - Any hospital or medical service policy or certificate
 - Hospital or medical service plan contract, or
 - Health maintenance organization (HMO) offered by a health insurer that is available to either parent.
- **Extraordinary Medical Expenses:** Extraordinary medical expenses now include the following:
 - Co-payments
 - Deductibles
 - Contributions associated with public and private health insurance coverage.

Usted puede solicitar **totalmente gratis** servicios de interpretación por teléfono o en persona, así como pedir que se le traduzcan algunos documentos. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este documento, por favor llámenos al (202) 442-9900.

- **Three Year Review and Modification Period:**
 - Every 3 years CSSD shall notify both parents of the right to review a child support case, and, if appropriate, a modification of the support order under the child support guideline.
 - CSSD shall automatically review all cases where there is an assignment of support rights (TANF & Medicaid).
 - Either parent has the right to request a review and modification.
- ## What are the Responsibilities of the CP and/or NCP?
- When the Court issues an order for either a CP or NCP or both to obtain or maintain health insurance through an employer, each individual is responsible for ensuring that their employer/payroll office process the NMSN in a timely manner.
 - If there is more than one health insurance plan available for a CP or NCP to select, each party is required by CSSD to choose the plan preferred within 10 business days or a plan will be selected automatically by CSSD.