

## Cash Assistance & Child Support | What You Need To Know

### How Cash Assistance and Child Support Overlap

Cash Assistance applicants and recipients with a minor child on their Cash Assistance budget (and with the other parent residing in a different household), must participate in an interview with the NYC Office of Child Support Services (OCSS). You will be asked to give us information about the other parent, referred to as the “noncustodial parent”. This will help OCSS bring the case to Family Court to establish parentage and a child support order if one doesn’t already exist.

You can receive up to \$200 a month on top of your benefit amount if the other parent makes payments of at least \$200 (\$100 if you only have one child). Depending on the details of your case, it can take 8 months on average for payments to begin. Additional money collected from the other parent on the child support case will be used to pay back the Cash Assistance benefits that you and your family received.



Before you go to your appointment, please read both “**LDSS-4279 Notice of Responsibilities and Rights for Support**” and “**W-280a Information for all potential child support applicants about getting child support safely**”. If you have any safety concerns after reading these documents, please contact your FIA worker, who will refer you to an HRA Domestic Violence Liaison. Together you can decide if child support is safe for you and your family.

Copies and translations of this and all referenced documents are available at <https://on.nyc.gov/custodialparent> or use the QR code below.



## Consequences for non-compliance

If you do not cooperate with the child support program, you may have your benefits reduced.

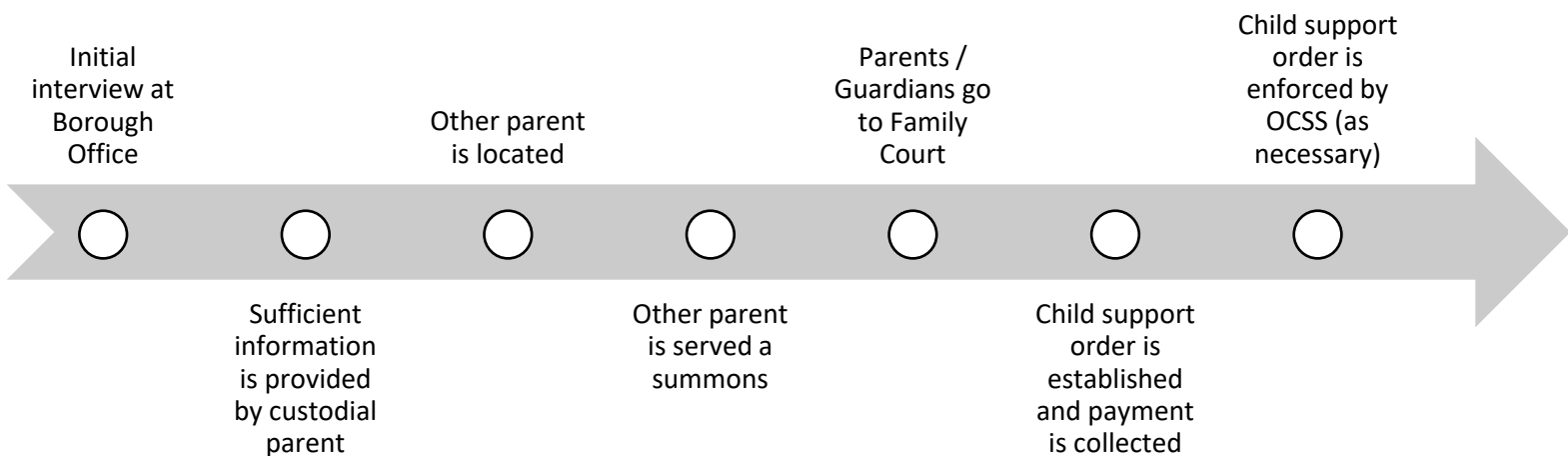
- Your Cash Assistance benefit may be reduced by at least 25%;
- You may lose Medicaid for yourself, not the child(ren)
- You may become ineligible for some rental assistance programs or have your rental supplement reduced;
- You won't receive up to \$200 per month in child support payments in addition to your Cash Assistance benefit – and more once the Cash Assistance case is closed.

To get your full benefits restored, parents can cooperate with child support at any point, during business hours. Contact an OCSS Borough Office to find out how to get your full benefits back. See

<https://on.nyc.gov/contactocss> for office location.

## The child support process

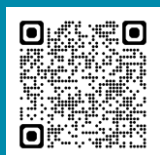
The child support process begins with the initial mandatory interview at OCSS.



### AGREEMENTS

Want to reduce your time in family court and know the details of the child support order before your court date? Read about agreements at <https://on.nyc.gov/custodialparent>.

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## Child support calculation

The Family Court decides how much the other parent must pay based on their income and how many children you have together. The amount is based on guidelines set by New York State and is written into a legal document called a child support court order. The court order requires the other parent to pay a certain amount of money on a set schedule. OCSS does not decide the amount of child support. During the hearing, an order of paternity/parentage may also be established, which names the other parent as the child's legally responsible parent.

## Pass-through payments explained

If there is a child support court order while your child receives Cash Assistance, the child support payments are owed to the Department of Social Services (DSS) to repay the Cash Assistance benefits your family received. However, if child support is collected, you will receive a bonus or "pass-through" in addition to your Cash Assistance payment, which will be added to your EBT card. Pass-through payments do not count as income against the SNAP portion of the case.

- One child: you will be given the first \$100 of child support payments collected each month.
- Two or more children: you will receive the first \$200 of child support payments collected each month.



If the other parent gives you money while you are receiving Cash Assistance, you must give it to HRA. Keeping these child support payments is considered welfare fraud.

## After your Cash Assistance case closes

When you stop receiving Cash Assistance all current child support payments will be sent to you. You will continue to receive child support enforcement services at no cost to you.

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