

Common Child Support Terms

absent parent	parent who does not live with or have custody of the child/children but who does have responsibility for financial support; non-custodial parent
administrative fee	fee that the Child Support Enforcement Agency is permitted by law added to and collected from a non-custodial parent's child support payments. Currently, Ohio's fee is 2 percent.
alleged father	the man the custodial parent is naming as the father
Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit	legal document a man can sign to acknowledge child's paternity
arrearage	the unpaid child support owed by a parent ordered to pay child support
bench warrant	warrant for arrest issued by the Court of Domestic Relations for failure to appear
buccal swab test	A recognized form of genetic testing used to establish paternity
capias	warrant for arrest issued by Juvenile Court or Court of Domestic Relations for failure to appear
Central Paternity Registry	data registry located in Columbus for children born out of wedlock
Child Support Payment Center (CSPC)	Ohio's centralized system, located in Columbus, for collecting and disbursing child support payments
criminal nonsupport	absent parents who willfully fail to pay court-ordered child support can be charged with a felony and prosecuted. They must meet established criteria, and the decision to prosecute is made by the County Prosecutor.
custodial parent	person with legal custody and with whom the child lives
custody	legal determination by a court that establishes with whom the child shall live (allocation of parental rights and responsibilities)
default	Condition of a child support account where the absent parent is failing to make full monthly payments on time
default judgment	Judgment rendered when an absent parent, after proper notification, fails to appear in court
delinquent support	See "arrearage"

electronic funds transfer (EFT)	a process that allows funds to be directly deposited into a bank account
emancipation	removing a child from a support order because he/she is no longer a minor, is married, or has achieved some other legally recognized independent status
enforcement	efforts taken to see that child support is paid as ordered
financial institution withholding	procedure established by a non-custodial parent to have child support payments deducted directly from his/her bank account. Often used when the non-custodial parent is self-employed.
FIDM (Financial Institution Data Match)	this is a data matching process that helps states identify financial accounts belonging to parents who owe delinquent child support
genetic testing	analysis of tissue or DNA of the mother, child and alleged father to help prove or disprove that a particular man fathered a particular child
jurisdiction	legal authority a court has over particular persons or certain types of cases in a defined geographical area
legal father	man recognized by law as a child's male parent
lien	legal claim upon property to prevent sale or transfer until a debt is satisfied
medical support	legal order to provide medical insurance for a child
modification hearing	hearing conducted at the Child Support Enforcement Agency to determine if an error was made in calculating support during a modification review
noncustodial parent	parent who does not have primary custody of a child but who is responsible for financial support
obligee (payee)	parent receiving child support payments
obligor (payor)	parent obligated to pay child support
Ohio Works First (OWF)	public assistance; monthly cash payments for families with children
Ohio Putative Father Registry (OPFR)	a registry service to protect father' rights to be notified if a child is being placed for adoption
order number	identification number contained on the original court order establishing child support
paternity establishment	the legal process to determine a child's biological father
SETS case number	a 10-digit child support identification number. All Ohio SETS case numbers begin with "7."

support order	court mandate for a parent to pay a specific amount of money on a specific schedule to Ohio's Child Support Payment Central (CSPC) to support his/her minor children
Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS)	statewide computer network that manages all child support cases in Ohio
URESAs	uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, a federal law that provides a mechanism for establishing and enforcing child support orders and paternity when parents live in different states or countries