

Medical Support

What is a *medical support order*?

Medical support exists when the court orders one or both parents to provide medical insurance for a child. The medical insurance required is health not dental and vision.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency will periodically send a letter requesting proof of medical insurance to the parent required to provide it.

What if the parent required to provide medical insurance won't do it?

- If that parent is employed and health insurance is available at group rates, your worker will send a notice to that parent's employer requiring them to enroll the child or children in the medical plan.
- If that parent is not employed or does not carry private insurance, CSEA can file a contempt motion with the court. If that parent still refuses, the penalty could include jail time.

What if the parent required to provide medical insurance can't afford it?

The parent ordered to provide medical support should request a change in their child support order called an "order modification."

To request an order modification, complete a [Request for Administrative Review of the Support Order](#) (JFS 01849). You can contact the CSEA at 513-946-7387.

If you are required to provide medical insurance for your children and you change employers:

- First, enroll your child in your new employer's medical plan.
- Second, call your worker and provide the name of your new employer and insurance company. If you leave a message for your caseworker **be sure to leave your full name and your social security number.**

My child support order says that medical expenses not covered by insurance should be split between both parents. Can child support make the other parent pay their share?

No. Splitting medical expenses is not a medical support order CSEA will not enforce this. You must file a private motion of contempt in the court where your support order was issued.

I am ordered to provide medical insurance, but it is too expensive through my employer. How can I stop the deductions?

Both parties may be ordered to provide private health insurance, but only if it is accessible and reasonable in cost. Private health insurance is considered "reasonable" if the annual cost (family coverage minus self-only coverage) does not exceed 5% of the parent's annual gross income. Contact the CSEA and provide the needed documentation (pay stubs, information about cost of insurance plans) so that the CSEA can determine whether the cost is reasonable.