



## **Information About Child Support for New Parents**

**The Attorney General of Texas Child Support Division is committed to helping parents with paternity establishment and child support.**

### **Q: Who may apply?**

**A:** Anyone who would like to establish paternity, child support, and/or medical support

### **Q: Why should I apply?**

**A:** People come to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) - Child Support Division for many reasons – sometimes because parents are not together. Even parents who are together and getting along may want to consider applying for child support services.

- Unmarried mothers or fathers who would like the added security of DNA testing before legal fatherhood (paternity) is established, removing the possibility of legal challenges in the future.  
**Note:** If you open a child support case with the OAG and we determine that a DNA test is necessary, one will be provided with no upfront cost.
- Mothers or fathers who want to establish a formal financial arrangement (this protects both parents).
- Mothers who are married to someone other than the biological father and need help establishing paternity with the biological father.

### **Q: How do I apply?**

**A:** Applying for child support services means filling out an application with the OAG and providing the staff with as much information as you can about your child, yourself and the other parent. This can be done:

- **Online** – Go to the Office of the Attorney General’s website at:
  - [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/get-started/how-apply-child-support](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/get-started/how-apply-child-support)
- **In Person** – You may visit any of our offices to obtain an application.
- For additional information, call (800) 252-8014.

### **Q: How much does it cost?**

**A:** There is no charge to apply for child support services. However, federal law requires all states impose a \$35 annual service fee on cases that involve parents who have never received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Fees will be deducted from child support payments. Parents who have more than one child support case will pay a fee on each case that meets the criteria.

### **Q: Will I have to go to court?**

**A:** Many parents take care of all their child support business in the office through the Child Support Review Process (CSRP). If parents can reach an agreement about paternity establishment, child support and visitation, and/or medical support, they can sign all the necessary documents and establish an order without going to court.