



Bringing the Power of Right-sized Orders to More Parents

OCSS has expanded access to a longstanding program to modify child support orders payable to the New York City (NYC) Department of Social Services (DSS) so that more parents and children can benefit from having orders that are the right size for their current income.

Orders that align a noncustodial parent's ability to pay with their current income remains a primary goal of OCSS because we know it leads to consistent child support payments—which can lead to improved outcomes for children.

The New MOTS

Now noncustodial parents who have child support orders payable to the custodial parent or the NYC DSS and can use our Modifying Orders Through Stipulation (MOTS) program to arrive at a modification of their order in line with New York's child support guidelines.

There are no income requirements for participation in MOTS, but the NYC Family Court does need to approve any changes to order amounts for us to be able to begin collecting a new payment amount.

How MOTS Differs from MDO

The earlier version of the program, known as MDO (for Modify DSS Order), served only parents with an order payable to the DSS and an income at or below [New York State's self-support reserve](#) (currently set at \$18,347). Offered since 2009, MDO has allowed hundreds of New Yorkers to reduce their child support orders by an average of 90%—taking them from an average order amount of \$361 per month to just \$35 per month.

The MOTS Process

MOTS begins with a conversation.

Over the phone or in person, a parent or parents works with a member of our Customer Service staff to draft an agreement and put together the required supporting documents. The custodial parent on an order must be part of that conversation—and must fully agree to any change—if the order is payable to them. If the order is payable to the NYC DSS, the custodial parent does not need to participate.

Once an agreement has been signed, DSS's Office of Legal Affairs reviews it along with the supporting documents and the court petition required to move this process to the next step.

Contact OCSS

Email us at dcse.cseweb@dfa.state.ny.us

The approved package is filed with the Court. Typically, only one Court appearance is required to complete the process.

Major Update to Mobile App Coming in December

The [NYC Child Support – Access HRA Mobile App](#) will receive another important update next month.

Focused on making it easier for noncustodial parents to make payments, the app's next update will be described in more detail in next month's newsletter.

New Report Shows the Long-Term Benefits of Child Support

Children who received child support are more likely to:

- Earn more as adults
- Be employed at a higher rate
- Both earn more and be employed at a higher rate when the parent paying support paid regularly when the children were young

These findings are drawn from a [recently published report](#) on the long-term benefits of receiving child support by researchers from Georgetown University and the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Research on Poverty.

While acknowledging research suggesting that the consequences of child support enforcement, including child support debt, can have negative effects, the researchers point to the program's potential benefits to children in low-income households. "Child support may disrupt patterns of intergenerational disadvantage," they write, "reducing the economic vulnerability of children living with single mothers, and improving those children's earnings as adults."

This new study also supported earlier ones suggesting the regularity of payments may be more important than the dollar amount.



In the Know

Announcing Our 2023 Policy Conference on Equity

OCSS will hold its next policy conference in October 2023 on the topic of bias and structural racism in the child support program. Email dcse.cseweb@dfa.state.ny.us with ideas for topics or speakers.