

Engaging Fathers through Changes in Ohio Child Support Laws



Ohio's Office of Child Support, in collaboration with various fatherhood programs, has recognized the need to make it easier for child support obligors to more effectively provide for the well-being of their children. Ohio's child support program continues to partner with fatherhood programs across the state in identifying barriers to successful father-child relationships and has worked with stakeholders and legislators to promote important changes in the child support program.

License Suspension and Reinstatement Laws

Recent changes to Ohio law reformed child support-related license suspension and reinstatement rules to provide more consistency across the state in the use of this enforcement tool.

- Local child support agencies now must follow specific guidelines prior to suspending an obligor's license. They also must provide notice to obligors prior to suspension. In addition, obligors may prevent the suspension by contacting their child support enforcement agency and discussing options.
- After their license has been reinstated, obligors may request that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles remove the suspension from their record. Specific criteria must be met prior to this removal.



Compromise and Waiver of State-Owed Arrears

Ohio now has a "waiver and compromise" program. This means that local child support enforcement agencies have the authority to negotiate the compromise or forgiveness of child support arrears owed to the state if an obligor can prove financial hardship.

- The program makes it easier for parents to fulfill their obligations by allowing them to pay a reduced amount in exchange for committing to making regular payments.
- In appropriate circumstances, the program also allows for the waiving of arrears owed to the state.

Sentencing Reform

Recent law changes promote increased obligor accountability by requiring courts to consider alternatives to prison sentencing for felony non-support offenders. As a result:

- Non-support offenders may be sentenced to alternative community sanctions.
- Non-support offenders may continue employment or seek employment to provide financial support for the child.
- Non-support offenders may stay connected to family support and community responsibilities.

