

NEW RULES IN CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CALWORKS) FOR SAFETY NET AND CERTAIN CHILD-ONLY CASES

The Child Support rules have changed for your family. You are getting CalWORKs cash aid only for your child(ren). Here are the changes that apply to you:

- You are no longer required to “assign” your child support rights to the county, however there are benefits for you and your child(ren) by having a child support case with the Local Child Support Agency (LCSA);
- Your grant amount will not be changed if you do not want LCSA’s child support services, including finding the non-custodial (absent) parent of your child(ren) or establishing paternity for your child(ren);
 - o You should be aware that finding the non-custodial parent and establishing of paternity will help you in the future in collecting child support if you need it; and
 - o In the future, if you become eligible for cash aid, different child support rules may apply.
- You will get to keep all of the child support money the non-custodial parent gives you or that the LCSA collects for you. You don’t have to turn it over to the county;
- If you already have an open child support case with the LCSA, you do not have to do anything to keep getting your child support collected for you. Keep track of the amount of child support you get and the date you got it. You will need it to report the child support money you get to the county;
- If you do not have an open child support case with the LCSA, you will have to apply for child support services at the LCSA to have paternity established for your child if needed, and to have your child support collected and sent to you. The county can help you do this;
- Child support collected by the LCSA and sent to you will no longer repay aid paid to your family so the adult’s 48-month CalWORKs time clock will no longer “untick” months of aid;
- When you get your child support money directly, you will now have to report the child support as income if the income reporting rules for your case require you to;
- If you get child support income, for your child(ren) on CalWORKs, we do not count the first \$50 each month. The rest may count against your CalWORKs grant;
- If you also get CalFresh, any child support income you get may be used to figure the amount of your CalFresh benefits.

If you have any questions, please call the county right away.