

MODIFYING CHILD SUPPORT

in South Carolina

Learn how to ask for a change in child support

What do I do first? Go to www.modifychildsupportsc.com. A video explains how the process works and what you need to do. After watching the video, use the website to find everything you need to ask for a change in child support. The website is for both people paying child support and people receiving child support.

Do I have to have a lawyer? No, you can do this on your own. If you have a large arrearage or there is an active bench warrant for your arrest, you should talk to an attorney. If you need an attorney, call the South Carolina Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at 1-800-868-2284 and ask for a Family Law attorney in your county. If you have a low income, contact South Carolina Legal Services Legal Aid Telephone Intake Service at 1-888-346-5592.

How much will this cost? All of the forms are free. There may be a cost to serve the papers. There is a court filing fee of \$150. You can ask to file the papers without paying this fee.



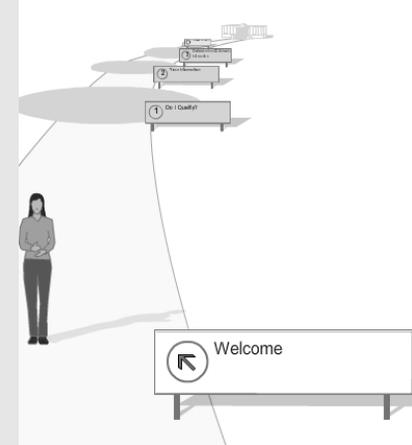
What paperwork will I need?

You need the address of the other party and a copy of your child support order. You need all of your financial information. This includes your paycheck stub and any other income or assets, such as TANF, disability or a savings account. This also includes bills like your mortgage, rent, car payments, credit cards, phone, or utilities.

This information is required, so have these items before you get started.

Provided by the S.C. Center for Fathers and Families,
in cooperation with
the S.C. Access to Justice Commission, the S.C. Bar Foundation,
S.C. Court Administration, the S.C. Dept. of Social Services
Child Support Enforcement, and S.C. Legal Services.

FREE AUTOMATED INTERVIEW



Go to www.modifychildsupportsc.com to use an interactive program that will create the forms you need. When you are done, you can print your forms with instructions.

What if I don't have access to a computer? Use a computer at your local public library. There may be a charge for printing documents so check with staff before printing.

How do I decide if I should ask the court to modify the support?

Child Support in S.C. is based on Child Support Guidelines. Find a link to a calculator at www.modifychildsupportsc.com. Fill this out to see if there is a substantial change in the child support amount. DSS uses a change of 20%. The judge does not have to use this, but it is a good estimate. Check this first. If you are asking for a decrease, the other party can ask for an increase. Or an increase might turn out to be a decrease. Always check first and get an idea of the guidelines support amount before filing any papers.