



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Pretrial Orientation Program

Federal Office of Child Support
Region VII – Kansas City
Date XX/XX/XXXX



- Child support doesn't automatically stop because you are incarcerated.
- Unpaid child support can add up quickly.
- There may be options available to you during each phase of your incarceration.



What Can I Do Before I Go In?

- If you have children who do not live you, you may have a child support case.
 - Sometimes a parent does not know there is a child support case.
- Contact your child support caseworker to discuss your situation.
 - If paternity is not established, you may be able to determine if you are the legal parent of the child.
 - If an order is not established, you may be able to provide information which will help established an appropriate order amount.
 - If you have an order, you may be eligible for a modification.
- Document all of the case and contact information for your case and case worker (case ID, court order number, case worker name and number, address, etc).
 - Discuss the best way to communicate about your case while you are incarcerated.
- Most states allow you to sign a release for a family member to discuss your case with your caseworker on your behalf.

What Do I Do While I'm In?

- Maintain contact with your family.
- Consider including child support in your financial contract.
- Contact your caseworker to ask if you are eligible for a modification.
 - State laws vary on whether incarceration is a valid reason for modification.
- Discuss 'arrear forgiveness' programs with your caseworker. Some states offer these programs and some don't.
- Visit the Institution's Career Resource Center. It should have information on child support and may contain forms and addresses to facilitate arrears forgiveness or other case-related activities.
- Take advantage of any child support presentations conducted by State or County Child Support agencies at the institution.
- Attend parenting classes.

What Do I Do When I Get Out?

- Contact your child support worker to update them on your situation.
 - Provide your address, parole officer name and number, and employer information.
 - Determine if the state has taken additional enforcement actions on your case such as license suspension or warrants and discuss whether there is flexibility while you are re-integrating into the community.
- Continue to develop your parenting skills and remain involved with your family.

How To Contact Your Child Support Worker.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/state-and-tribal-child-support-agency-contacts>

