

What Happens at a CHILD SUPPORT HEARING?

Income Expense Statements: both parents are required to complete and bring an income expense statement with them to the hearing.



Failure to do so is essentially viewed as a 'no show'.

- If one parent believes the other parent has erred on the figures disclosed on their budget sheet, the parent should ask that the numbers be verified. This should be done during the meeting by simply raising your hand, voicing your concern, and making your request.
- If the child is receiving any type of **public assistance**, there will be a child support attorney present, representing the interests of the state. If this is the case, each parent should arrive 15 minutes early for a pre-meeting with the child support attorney who will attempt to negotiate an agreement. When in doubt, show up early.
- This type of hearing usually takes 15-20 minutes and parents may feel it is moving too fast. If this is the case, raise your hand and **ask the commissioner to slow down or clarify a point.**

Things that the parent with placement should **request** at this hearing

- Child support payments
- Medical coverage of the child under the other parent's private health insurance coverage
- Payments for medical expenses not covered by insurance should be split 50/50
- Temporary placement and custody order

The parent seeking child support will most likely want to request that the payments be in the form of **wage garnishment.**



The Court (the Commissioner) will use 17% of the parent's **gross income as a guideline** in determining the amount of child support to be awarded.

The following are examples of factors that may cause the court to deviate from the 17%

- If the parent who will be paying child support is currently paying child support for one or more **other** children
- If a deduction of 17% of that parent's gross income would put him or her below the poverty line

