



# Rhode Island Department of Human Services Office of Child Support Services (OCSS)

## What is OCSS?

The Office of Child Support Services (OCSS), a division within the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS), works to enhance the wellbeing of children. As part of its overarching purpose, OCSS helps children by assisting in obtaining support, financial and medical, as well as establishing parentage/paternity, establishing support obligations and enforcing court orders.

Children are Rhode Island's future, and they deserve to have the financial and emotional support they need to grow into responsible adults. Appropriately, OCSS works vigorously to promote parental responsibility and children's emotional, physical, and social wellbeing.

In every case, there is a custodial parent and a non-custodial parent. A custodial parent receives child support, lives with the child, and has the primary day-to-day responsibility for the care of the child. A non-custodial parent, or NCP, often has visitation or joint custody of the child and is obligated to pay child support.

## Who is eligible for OCSS services?

If you are a parent who is receiving Rhode Island Works (RIW) benefits or medical assistance through Rlte Care, you will be required to pursue child support services through OCSS. Parents who are not using RIW or Rlte Care benefits are also eligible to receive child support services, which includes assistance to establish parentage/paternity, and establishing or enforcing medical or child support orders.

## How do I apply?

To receive child support services, you will need to submit an Application for Child Support Services and a Family Court Statement of Assets form, both are available on the OCSS website. You can also call 401-458-4400 and leave your name, phone number, and mailing address so that an application is mailed to you. It is important that all necessary information is provided by the person applying for services. All information requested is necessary to provide the best possible service in any individual case.

## Anything else I should know?

There is a \$20 application fee to apply for child support services. Fees are waived if the applicant is receiving RIW, TANF, Rlte Care, or state medical assistance, or state medical assistance.

## If determined ineligible . . .

The applicant has the right to appeal the decision by requesting a fair hearing. The appeal instructions and required forms are available on the DHS website [Appeals Process](#) page.