



***VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT***

FACT SHEET FOR MEDICAID ENROLLEES

In the past, the parent or caretaker of Medicaid-enrolled children with absent parents was automatically referred by the Department of Social Services to the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE). Beginning January 1, 2007, parents and caretakers of Medicaid-enrolled children with absent parents have the option of applying for the services of the Division of Child Support Enforcement.

The Commonwealth of Virginia believes that every child has a right to receive emotional and financial support from both parents. Unfortunately, some parents not living with their children do not provide them with the kind of financial care they are entitled to.

DCSE CAN ASSIST YOU WITH:

- **Establishing Paternity** – Every child deserves a mother and a father. Paternity creates a legal relationship between a father and the child. Paternity may provide legal benefits for your child, including a share of Social Security, disability or veterans benefits if the father dies, becomes disabled or is already deceased; rights to any inheritance from the father; and rights to the father's health or life insurance benefits. Establishing paternity provides personal benefits for your child, such as self-esteem, family identity and health history.
- **Establishing the Support Order** – The support order can include both financial support and health insurance coverage. It spells out exactly what the noncustodial parent must pay on a monthly basis to help support his or her child. To set the amount of the order, Virginia uses the Child Support Guideline approved by the Virginia General Assembly. This guideline looks at such things as the needs of the child and each parent's income. The actual amount of the order will depend on the individual circumstances of your case. Important information that may affect the order includes child-care expenses, child health care premiums and other children for whom either parent is legally responsible. Only the incomes of the legal parents are considered, not those of current spouses.
- **Enforcing the Support Order** – When the child support order is not paid on a timely basis, DCSE will begin enforcing the order. The most common means used to enforce a child support order is income withholding, which means that part of the paycheck is automatically taken to pay the child support. For non-custodial parents who do not receive a regular paycheck, who work for cash or commissions, or who are self-employed, DCSE can use other ways to attempt to collect. Depending on the amount of arrears owed, some possible enforcement actions are intercepting state and federal income tax refunds, placing liens on real or personal property, reporting the debt to credit reporting agencies, seizing other income or financial assets, and suspending Virginia drivers and professional licenses.

- **Review and Adjustment** – Review and Adjustment means reviewing a child support order to see if the amount should be changed. Reviews are usually limited to once every 36 months from the date of entry of the order. Either parent can request a review and may request an earlier review under certain circumstances. Not all reviews result in a change in the order. A review may show the child support amount needs to go up, down or stay the same. The process can take up to six months to complete.
- **Interstate and International Cases** – All states pursue child support across state lines. The process used by Virginia is based on the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). This act helps to establish paternity, establish child support orders and collect support across state lines. If the noncustodial parent does not live in the United States, the case can be enforced only if we have an international agreement with the country where he or she is living. You can obtain a list of the countries we have agreements with by calling the DCSE Call Center at 1 (800) 468-8894.
- **Payment Information** – As a DCSE customer, you will have access to information on payments, arrearages and some of the recent actions on your case by calling the DCSE Call Center toll-free at 1 (800) 468-8894. This automated system is available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. DCSE will disburse your child support payments to you within two business days of receiving payment, as long as the payment is due to you. If you have authorized it, the payment may be direct deposited into your bank account.

Applying for DCSE services is easy! You may obtain an application and mailing instructions

- on the DCSE website at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/dcse> or
- you can call the DCSE Call Center at 1 (800) 468-8894 to have an application mailed to you.

If you have any questions about the services provided by DCSE, our website can provide additional information or one of our Call Center representatives will be glad to talk with you. Please contact us today if we can be of assistance.