

Requirements of Support Enforcement

How Can I Get Support?

If you help us, we may be able to get child and medical support for your children by:

- Finding the absent parent.
- Legally establishing your child's paternity.
- Getting child support for you and your children. This may be more than you get in FIP.
- Getting health insurance and other medical resources for you and your children.
- Getting the rights to any future social security, veterans, or other benefits for you and your children.

Will I Get to Keep My Support?

Family Investment Program (FIP)

When you get FIP, you give to the state of Iowa your rights to child support for the months you are on FIP. The state will keep the child support that is collected to pay for the money you get from FIP. The state won't keep more than the total amount of FIP you ever got. If you think you would be better off getting child support instead of FIP, you can ask to stop your FIP. After your FIP stops, the child support will go directly to you.

Medicaid

When you are on Medicaid, you give up your rights to get medical support payments. The state of Iowa will keep any medical support payments while you get Medicaid. The state will use this to help pay for the cost of your medical coverage.

How Can I Help?

By law, you must cooperate with the Department of Human Services. To cooperate with the Department, you may be asked to:

- Name the absent parent of any child who you want to get FIP or Medicaid for.
- Name the absent parent of any child who is already getting FIP or Medicaid.
- Give any information you have to help us find the parent.
- Help us determine legally who the father is, if the child was born out of wedlock.
- Help get money or medical resources that are owed to you or your children who are getting FIP or Medicaid.
- Give the Department any money that is given directly to you by the absent parent. You will still get your Medicaid and full FIP grant from the state.
- Go to the county office of the Department of Human Services, the Child Support Recovery Office, or the District Court to sign papers or give information.

What if I Can't Help?

You won't have to help if you have good cause. **Good cause** means you have a good reason not to help us collect support. You may not have to cooperate if it would not be in the best interest of your child. You will be asked to provide proof if you claim good cause.

How Do I Claim Good Cause?

If you want to claim good cause, tell your worker. You may do this at any time you believe you have a good reason not to cooperate.

If you claim good cause, you will get another notice. The second notice will tell you what is considered to be good cause for not cooperating. It will also give you some examples of the information you will need to give us so we can decide if you have a good reason not to cooperate.

You can ask for this second notice at any time to help you decide whether or not to claim good cause.

What Will Happen if I Can't Help and I Don't Have Good Cause?

- Your children will still be able to get Medicaid.
- You may not be able to get Medicaid, depending on your situation.
- Your FIP benefits will be cut by 25%.