



CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES WORKSHEET
COVER LETTER

Date: _____

Case Number: _____

Dependents:

We, the Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU), previously sent you a notice that we are attempting to enter an order for support for the above-named children. We asked both parents to complete and return a financial statement, along with proof of the income and expenses. We also provided information on the ways that we may determine a parent's income in order to calculate a support amount.

Enclosed is a worksheet showing our calculation and what we recommend for support. Be sure to review the entire worksheet right away. For a summary of our recommendations, see Section V. RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF CHILD SUPPORT and the GUIDELINES CALCULATION COMMENTS.

We intend to ask the court to enter a support order based on the worksheet, subject to the following:

1. We will consider any new or different financial information from either parent or any other source **within 10 days from the date of this letter** before taking action to file a support order. A new worksheet will be issued to both parents if there is a change in the support recommendations.
2. We may extend the accrued support period to include any additional periods public assistance is paid out prior to the entry of the order.
3. A parent served with a Notice of Child Support Debt or petition to establish support may request a court hearing to determine the issue of support. Neither this letter, nor the enclosed worksheet, affects your right or time limits for exercising this right.
4. In an administrative paternity case, the alleged father, mother, or CSRU may request genetic testing and/or a court hearing. If the alleged father fails to appear for scheduled genetic testing and fails to reschedule the test, we will enter a default administrative order establishing paternity and support, including medical support. Neither this letter, nor the enclosed worksheet, affects your right or time limits for exercising this right.
5. If a court hearing is held, we will present evidence to the court concerning the finances of both parents. This includes, but is not limited to, any financial statement provided by the parents and any worksheet we completed to calculate the amount of support or to determine medical support.
6. **Medical Support:** Medical support is either health care coverage or cash medical support. Health care coverage includes private health insurance plans (obtained through an employer, or purchased privately) and public coverage (like Title 19 or *hawk-i*).

A private health insurance plan is available if it is accessible and the cost is reasonable.

The law defines an accessible plan as one with no service area limitations, or if it has limitations, the dependent lives within 30 miles or 30 minutes of a network primary care provider. Both parents may consent to a plan if it doesn't meet the definition of accessible. The law defines reasonable cost as 5% of gross income or less. The parent ordered may consent to provide a plan that costs more.

Medical support will be set according to Iowa Code chapter 252E. To determine what medical support to include in an order, we look at the circumstances of each parent.

- a) If one of the parents is currently providing private health insurance for the child, and the plan is available, we will seek an order for one of the parents to provide health care coverage, according to Iowa Code chapter 252E.
- b) If neither parent is currently providing private health insurance for the child but one of the parents has it available, we will seek an order for one of the parents to provide health care coverage, according to Iowa Code chapter 252E.
- c) If private health insurance is not available to either parent, and the payee has public coverage for the child, we will seek an order for the payee to provide health care coverage, and we may seek an order for the payor to pay cash medical support unless an exception applies.
- d) If neither parent has health care coverage and no one consents to provide a plan due to cost or accessibility, we may seek an order for the payor to pay cash medical support unless an exception applies.

We can consider a health benefit plan provided by a stepparent. As with a parent's health benefit plan, a stepparent's plan must be accessible and reasonable in cost. If not, you must contact us to consent to provide a stepparent plan. In addition, a parent may object to a stepparent providing a health benefit plan. If a parent objects for this reason in writing, the court will decide the issue based on what is equitable to the parties and children.

If you have any questions about this letter or the enclosed worksheet, please contact us at the address and phone number below.

Child Support Recovery Unit

PHONE: _____