

HOW TO: Start Child Support

MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



HOLISTIC
DEFENSE SERVICES

When there's no legal proof of being a parent, problems can come up. For instance, people might find it hard to visit their kids when they're in jail. Figuring out how to legally show an individual as a parent can be tough. Some people might not even know they can do this. And if they do know, it can still be tricky to go through the whole process.

Clients can apply for paternity through the courts or the [Department of Social Services](#) (DSS). This "How To" will discuss the DSS method because we think its process can often be faster, cheaper, and easier.

They'll send the individual a letter in the mail, explaining what to do next and guiding the steps through the whole process.

NOTE: *Showing you're the parent with DSS doesn't mean you have to give money for the child right away. But, if the other parent asks for it from DSS or the courts later, proving you're the parent makes you eligible to help with money for the child.*

The DSS Can Be Completed by:

1. [Online](#)
2. [By mail](#) – mailing the Family Support Division, P.O. Box 790 Jefferson City, MO 65102-6790
3. By fax – faxing to 573-635-7545

When an individual begins the application, make sure to check the box that says the "Alleged Father." When an individual reaches the end of the application and it asks about the kind of Child Support Services, pick "Establish and/or Enforce Child Support And Medical Support." After submitting the application, DSS (Department of Social Services) will look at it.



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Print List

1. "How to: Start Child Support" Guide
2. [Printable Application](#)

Full Links/Reference (in order of appearance)

Page 1

Department of Social Services Homepage:

<https://dss.mo.gov/>

Online Application:

https://formsportal.mo.gov/content/forms/af/moa/my-dss/cse-child-support/cs_300ez.html

Paper Application:

https://dss.mo.gov/child-support/pdf/CS_300EZ.pdf

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