

# HOW TO CALCULATE CHILD SUPPORT

For the purposes of establishing a new child support order or for modifying an existing child support order.

- ▶ Before you file your papers, it is a good idea to use a calculator to determine what the monthly child support amount may be.
- ▶ The California Department of Child Support Services has a free, online child support calculator.
- ▶ This will only be an ESTIMATE. The Court does not have to use your calculation. The other parties in your case can also submit a calculation which may differ from yours.

**[HTTPS://CHILDSUPPORT.CA.GOV/GUIDELINE-CALCULATOR/](https://childsupport.ca.gov/guideline-calculator/)**

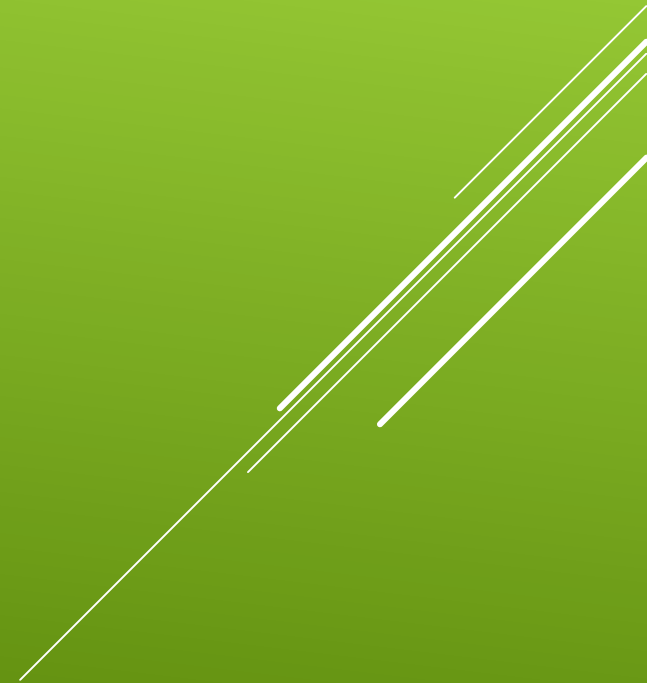
# CHILD SUPPORT IS CALCULATED BASED ON MANY DIFFERENT FACTORS.

The two main factors are:

1. Parenting time with the child (as a percentage)

&

2. Parents' incomes



The screenshot shows the homepage of the California Child Support Services Guideline Calculator. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the CA.GOV logo, social media icons for home, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and links for Contact Us, Translate, and Settings. Below this is a white header with the California Child Support Services logo and a menu of icons for Home, Our Agency, Services We Offer, Quick Links, How To..., Forms & Info, Employers, and Search. The main content area features a large heading "Guideline Calculator" and a text box with instructions and warnings. Below the text box is a form section titled "Number of Children to Use in the Calculation:" with a dropdown menu set to "1" and a "Start" button. At the bottom, there is a copyright notice for 2006 State of California with links to Conditions of Use and Privacy Policy.

CA.GOV

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## Guideline Calculator

California law requires courts to adhere to statewide uniform guidelines in setting child support orders. The Payment Estimator applies the statewide uniform guideline calculation to the information that you enter into the blank fields. Click on [Instructions](#) for information to help you enter information into the blank fields.

Warning:  
Some understanding of California family law and California and federal tax law is necessary to complete some blank fields correctly. You can obtain assistance in completing the Payment Estimator from your county's [Family Law Facilitator](#) or a family law attorney.

Local Child Support Agencies provide child support services to the public at no cost. Among the services provided by Local Child Support Agencies are obtaining court orders and modifying court orders based on statewide uniform guidelines. If you would like to apply for services, click on the following link. [I would like an application for services.](#)

**Number of Children to Use in the Calculation:**

Number of Children:

Start

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Start by entering the number of children for which you are calculating child support.

## Guideline Calculator

### Dependent Information

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name	Prior Period Date Range	Time with Parent 1(%) is the same for each child: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Time with Parent 1 (%)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRST-BORN	<a href="#">Not Applicable</a>		20.0	<a href="#">Advanced</a>

### Parents Living Together Without Custody of Children

Check here if Parent 1 and Parent 2 are living together and neither have custody of the children. (Child(ren) in foster care or other non-parent custody)

### Tax Information

Tax Year: 2020

**Federal Income Taxes:**

**Federal Tax Filing Status:** Parent 1: SINGLE Parent 2: HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

**Federal Tax Exemptions:** Parent 1: 1 Parent 2: 2

**State Income Taxes:** California California

California Tax Filing Status (Registered Domestic Partner Only): Parent 1: SAME AS FEDERAL Parent 2: SAME AS FEDERAL

Show Maximized Exemptions and Credits (Court Discretion/Stipulations Only):

On the next screen, you will need to calculate the other parent's parenting time with the child(ren) as a percentage. There is an "advanced" link that can help you do that.

You will also need to indicate both parents' federal and state tax filing status and exemptions.

## Guideline Calculator

### Monthly Income Information

Wages/Salary:  MONTHLY  MONTHLY

#### + Calculate Wages/Salary

Self-Employment Income:

Unemployment Compensation:

Disability (Taxable):

#### + Other Taxable Income

Other Non-Taxable Income:

#### + Other Non-Taxable Income Details

New Spouse Wages/Salary:

#### + New-Spouse Other Income and Deductions

#### + Public Assistance and Child Support Received

### Monthly Deduction Information

Child Support Paid (Other Relationships):

Spousal Support Paid This Relationship:

Property Tax:

Mortgage Interest:

Qualified Business Income (QBI):

Required Union Dues:

Health Insurance Post Tax:   Pre-Tax   Pre-Tax

#### + Other Health Insurance

When you scroll down, you will see “Monthly Income Information” and “Monthly Deduction Information.”

Enter the monthly income for both parents. If you are not sure, you will need to make your best guess. (Remember, the other parent can submit their own calculation, so you want to be as accurate as possible to get an accurate calculation.)

If you have monthly deduction information for either parent, you may enter it here. If none of these apply, or if you do not know, leave them blank.

<https://childsupport.ca.gov/guideline-calculator/>

Mandatory Retirement (Tax-Deferred):

Other Retirement Contributions

Job Related Expenses & Spousal Support Other Relationship

Other Itemized Deductions

Other Tax Deductions

Alternative Minimum Tax Information (IRS Form 6251) & State Adjustments

Extraordinary Health and Catastrophic Losses

Hardship Children (FC 4071(b)):

Other Hardship Children Details

**Monthly Child Support Add-On Information**

Parent 1

Parent 2

Allocation for Child Support Add-Ons:  50/50  Prorate per Family Code 4061(b)  After Support

**Other Settings**

Apply Low-Income Adjustment  N/A  Yes  No

Calculate Temporary Spousal Support:  No  Alameda  Humboldt  Kings  Marin  Santa Clara

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There are other factors that may apply to your case, such as mandatory retirement contributions, and other tax deductions. If these apply, enter them here.

Depending on the parents' incomes, the system may ask you to apply the Low-Income Adjustment, which is down at the bottom of the page.

**One or more validation errors has occurred:**  
**Apply Low-Income Adjustment** - A low income adjustment setting must be selected when the net disposable income of the obligor is under the low income adjustment threshold. (Error Code: 71582)

Once you have entered your information, click the button: "Calculate Guideline Support."

## Guideline Calculator

### Child Support Results

#### Monthly Support Totals

Type	Parent 1(\$)	Parent 2(\$)
<b>Total Monthly Child Support Amount Owed:</b>	50.00	0.00
Basic Child Support Amount:	50.00 to 96.00	0.00
Child Support Add-Ons Amount:	0.00	0.00
Total Arrears Support Amount:	0.00	0.00
Temporary Spousal Support Amount (N/A):	0.00	0.00

#### Amount of Child Support Per Child

Child	Time with Parent 1(%)	Parent 1 Add-Ons(\$)	Parent 1 Support(\$)	Parent 1 Total(\$)	Parent 2 Add-Ons(\$)	Parent 2 Support(\$)	Parent 2 Total(\$)
FIRST-BORN	20.0	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average % Time with Parent 1	20.0	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Amount of Child Support Arrears Per Child

Child	Prior Period Date Range	Parent 1 Add-Ons(\$)	Parent 1 Support(\$)	Parent 1 Total(\$)	Parent 2 Add-Ons(\$)	Parent 2 Support(\$)	Parent 2 Total(\$)
FIRST-BORN	Not Applicable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Monthly Tax/Income Information (Tax Year: 2020)

Type	Parent 1(\$)	Parent 2(\$)
Monthly Net Disposable Income:	950.00	2192.00
Monthly Net Disposable Income After Support:	900.00	2242.00
Monthly Gross Income:	1000.00	2000.00
Monthly Federal Adjusted Gross Income:	1000.00	2000.00
Federal Tax Filing Status	SINGLE	HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD
Number of Federal Tax Exemptions	1	2
California Tax Filing Status	SAME AS FEDERAL	SAME AS FEDERAL
Number of California Tax Exemptions	1	2
Monthly Federal Taxable Income:	0.00	446.00
Monthly Federal Tax Liabilities:	-24.00	-353.00
Monthly Federal Self-Employment Tax:	0.00	0.00
Monthly FICA (Social Security and/or Medicare):	77.00	153.00
Monthly State Tax Liabilities:	-12.00	-12.00
Monthly CASDI:	10.00	20.00

#### Other Monthly Deduction Totals

Type	Parent 1(\$)	Parent 2(\$)
Hardship Deduction Amount	0.00	0.00
Hardship Deduction Children	0.0	0.0

#### Dependent Information

[View Printable Results](#) [Start Over](#)

In this example, the results show that Parent 1 has to pay \$50.00 per month for child support.

The button at the bottom, "View Printable Results," takes you to a new screen (see image on the right→) from which you can print the calculation to attach it to your court papers.

### Calculation Results Summary

Monthly Support Totals	Parent 1	Parent 2					
<b>Monthly Child Support Amount</b>	<b>50.00</b>	0.00					
Basic Child Support Amount	50.00 to 96.00	0.00					
Child Support Add-Ons Amount	0.00	0.00					
Child Care	0.00	0.00					
Visits/Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00					
School Expenses	0.00	0.00					
Uninsured Health Expenses	0.00	0.00					
Total Arrears Support Amount	0.00	0.00					
Temporary Spousal Support Amount (N/A)	0.00	0.00					
Monthly Tax/Income Information (Tax Year: 2020)	Parent 1	Parent 2					
Monthly Net Disposable Income	950.00	2192.00					
Monthly Taxable & Non-Taxable Gross Income	1000.00	2000.00					
Monthly Taxable Gross Income	1000.00	2000.00					
Monthly Non-Taxable Gross Income	0.00	0.00					
Federal Adjusted Gross Income	1000.00	2000.00					
Federal Taxable Income	0.00	446.00					
Net Income After Support	900.00	2242.00					
Federal Tax Filing Status	SINGLE	HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD					
Number of Tax Exemptions (Federal)	1	2					
State Tax Filing Status	SAME AS FEDERAL	SAME AS FEDERAL					
Number of Tax Exemptions (State)	1	2					
Federal Tax Liabilities	-24.00	-353.00					
State Tax Liabilities	-12.00	-12.00					
FICA (Social Security and/or Medicare)	77.00	153.00					
Self-Employment Tax	0.00	0.00					
CASDI	10.00	20.00					
Public Assistance	NO	NO					
Other Monthly Deduction Totals	Parent 1	Parent 2					
Child Support Paid (Other Relationships)	0.00	0.00					
Required Union Dues	0.00	0.00					
Mandatory Retirement	0.00	0.00					
Job Related Expenses & Spousal Support Other Relationship	0.00	0.00					
Health Insurance Premium	0.00	0.00					
Hardship Deduction Amount	0.00	0.00					
Hardship Deduction Children	0.0	0.0					
Extraordinary Health Expenses	0.00	0.00					
Uninsured Catastrophic Losses	0.00	0.00					
Monthly Support Amounts Per Child	% Time with Parent 1	Parent 1 Add-Ons	Parent 1 Support	Parent 1 Total	Parent 2 Add-Ons	Parent 2 Support	Parent 2 Total
FIRST-BORN	20.0	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Average % Time with Parent 1</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**PARENT 1 is required to pay PARENT 2 \$50.00 in CURRENT SUPPORT**



- After you have your calculation, you need to decide whether or not you want to file your request to establish or modify child support.
- If you decide to file, contact the Self-Help Center for forms and information by phone at **(530) 822-3305** or online at **[www.suttercourts.com/e-help](http://www.suttercourts.com/e-help)**.