

How to Ask for Child Support

Use this packet ONLY if:

- You are not married to the other parent, and
- You and the other parent have never had a **Superior Court** child support order, and
- An Acknowledgment of Paternity form was filed with the Washington Center for Health Statistics or with a similar agency in the state the child was born

Do **not** use these instructions for help with *back support*. For back support problems, talk to the Child Support Division or ask a lawyer for help.

Due to COVID-19, all hearings are being done by phone or video and most offices are only providing remote services. You should consult the King County Superior Court webpage for the most up to date information. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court.aspx>

Talk to a lawyer, if you can

These instructions have been developed by the King County Superior Court Family Law Information Center. They are not intended to be a substitute for legal advice. They provide only legal *information*. It's a good idea to talk to a lawyer before you file any forms.

If you **cannot** afford a lawyer, you can:

- You can obtain a list of low-cost and free legal resources.
<https://kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/superior-court/docs/family/facilitator/family-law-resources.ashx?la=en>
- Get help from the Family Law Facilitators office. You can get information about their services at <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/family/facilitator.aspx>.

Step 1: Fill out these forms

All of these forms can be downloaded at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/forms.aspx>

Form Name	Form Number	Notes	Completed
Case Assignment Area Form & Case Index Cover Sheets			<input type="checkbox"/>
Confidential Information Form		Attachment to Confidential Information (for additional parties or children)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 2: Fill out these forms, then make copies

All of these forms can be downloaded at: www.courts.wa.gov/forms/

Form Name	Form Number	Notes	Completed
Summons: Notice about Petition for Parenting Plan, Residential Schedule, and/ or Child Support	FL Parentage 330		<input type="checkbox"/>
Petition for a Parenting Plan, Residential Schedule and/ or Child Support	FL Parentage 331		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sealed Birth Certificate or Paternity Document	FL Parentage 329	Attach a certified copy of Paternity Acknowledgment /Denial/Birth Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Copy of Acknowledgment/Denial of Paternity/Birth Certificate	Contact WA Center of Health Statistics, or similar agency in the state where Acknowledgment or Denial was filed.		
Notice to Military Dependent	FL All Family 103		<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Support Worksheets	WSCSS-Worksheets		<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Support Schedule & Instruction	This is information to use to calculate Child Support Worksheets. Online Child Support Calculation software is available at https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/dcs/SSGen/Home		
Financial Declaration	FL All Family 131		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sealed Financial Source Documents	FL All Family 011	This form goes on the front of the financial documents you file	<input type="checkbox"/>
When you ask for child support, you must provide copies of financial documents, including:			<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your W-2s and complete personal tax returns for the past 2 years ▪ Your most recent pay stubs (at least 6 months) ▪ Complete partnership/corporate tax returns for the past 2 years if you have a 5% interest or more ▪ Statements from all of your banks and financial institutions for the past 6 months 			

How many copies do I need?

- **Original** set to file with Clerk's office.
- Copy **1** is to serve the other parent
- Copy **2** you will keep for your records
- Make a **3rd** copy if the child(ren) have ever received public assistance, or you are uncertain as to whether or not they have ever received public assistance. You must deliver a copy of the forms to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Family Support Division.

Fill out these forms after the other parent is served (see Step 4), make a copy and file them. These forms can be downloaded at: www.courts.wa.gov/forms/

Proof of Personal Service	FL All Family 101	Form is signed by the server. See Step 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Declaration: Personal Service Could not be Made in Washington	FL All Family 102	Only use if the other parent is served personally out-of-state	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 3: Start (file) your case

You can start (file), your case by either bringing your original forms to the Clerk's Office (room 2C in Kent and E-609 in Seattle),

OR

You can file your case online on the Clerk's website at:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/documents/efiling.aspx>. If you have questions about e-filing call 206-477-3000, or email eServices@kingcounty.gov.

Step 4: Pay the fee

While starting the case, the Clerk will ask you to pay a filing fee. If you cannot afford to pay the fee, apply to waive the fee. This application is available here:

- For [Kent](#): <http://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/Clerk/forms/waive-ff-inst-kent.ashx?la=en>
- For [Seattle](#): <http://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/Clerk/forms/waive-ff-inst-sea.ashx?la=en>

There are instructions about how to get a fee waiver approved during COVID-19 here:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/courts/Clerk/docs/misc/Updated-Instructions-for-Ex-Parte-via-the-Clerk-Fee-Waiver.ashx?la=en>

Step 5: Have the other parent served.

You must have the other parent served with *copies* of:

The Case Schedule that the Clerk gave you when you filed, **and**

All of the forms you filed with the clerk, except the *Case Assignment Area Form & Case Index Cover Sheets* and the *Confidential Information Form*.

How to Serve

Someone over the age of 18 – **not you** - must serve (give) the other parent copies of your court papers. After serving, the server fills out the *Proof of Personal Service (FL All Family 101)* form and returns it to you.

Note: If the other parent is personally served outside Washington State:

- the signature of the server must be notarized or sworn before a court clerk on the *Proof of Personal Service Form (FL All Family 101)*, and
- You must fill out and file the *Declaration: Personal Service Could Not be Made in Washington, (FL All Family 102)*.

File the original Proof of Personal Service form (and the Declaration: Personal Service Could Not Be Made in Washington) with the Clerk's office. Keep a copy for your records.

If you have questions about serving, please ask the Facilitators for information regarding service.

Step 6: Wait for a Response

The next step is to wait to see if the other parent files and serves a *Response* by the deadline.

You must wait:

20 days	If the other parent was served in person in Washington state.
60 days	If the other parent was served in person outside of Washington state or by publication (pursuant to a court order).
90 days	If the other parent was served by mail (pursuant to a court order).

If you want to ask for a **temporary** child support order now, ask the Family Law Facilitators for information on filing for Temporary Orders.

If the parent **does serve and file a Response**, follow your Case Schedule. Your trial will be in about 11 months.

Step 7: Finishing your Case

There are three ways to finish your case:

Default

If the other party does not file a Response to the Petition by the deadline, you may be able to finalize your case by default. There are instructions called “How to Ask for an Order of Default” under the “Other Motions” section here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/family/family-law-instructions.aspx>

Agreement

If you come to an agreement before trial, you can finish your case early. finalize your case through the Clerk’s office by paying the Ex Parte via the Clerk processing fee. The Clerk will present the orders to the Commissioner on your behalf. Review the following link for details about submitting (submission methods) your final orders.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/documents/ExParte.aspx>

Trial

If you and the other party cannot come to an agreement about your case you will have a trial before a Judge. Make sure that both your email and mailing address are up-to-date so that the court can contact you. Instructions on preparing for trial are available at the Facilitators office.

Informal Family Law Trial (IFLT):

Requirements to select an IFLT. All parties must state whether they wish to proceed with an IFLT or a traditional trial. All parties must agree in order to proceed with an IFLT. Each party shall make its selection in writing using the [Family Law Trial Selection Form](#). The Family Law Trial Selection form must be filed prior to the trial commencing. For cases in which there is a pretrial conference hearing, the selection shall be made at that hearing. If there is no pretrial conference hearing, the selection shall be made in the [Joint Confirmation of Trial Readiness](#) form. If a party does not file a selection using either form prior to the trial commencing, the case will proceed as a traditional trial. For more information on IFLT see

Step 8: Prepare Final Orders

Fill out these forms when you are ready to finalize

Child Support Order	FL All Family 130	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Support Worksheets	WSCSS-Worksheets	<input type="checkbox"/>

Final Order and Findings for a Parenting Plan, Residential Schedule and/or Child Support	FL Parentage 333		<input type="checkbox"/>
--	------------------	--	--------------------------

If you are finalizing by default you will need these forms, too

Motion for Default	FL All Family 161		<input type="checkbox"/>
Order on Motion for Default	FL All Family 162		<input type="checkbox"/>

***If the child(ren) have ever received public assistance, your final documents must be signed by the Prosecuting Attorney, Family Support Division before you can finalize**