

CHILD SUPPORT

The Courts generally follow the Texas Standard Guidelines for Child Support.

Child Support Guidelines

The Texas Family Code guidelines set out the schedule for payment of support.

[Texas Family Code Section 154.061](#)

[Texas Family Code Section 153.125](#)

The major purpose of the child support guidelines is to promote the settlement of child support disputes by providing realistic measures to determine the amount of child support in the average case. The schedule is intended for use in establishing permanent, rather than temporary support. Temporary support will ordinarily be higher and may include provisions for spousal support and preservation of community property.

The schedule applies to the non-custodial parent without regard to whether that parent is male or female. The schedule is designed for the average income family and may not be valid for those on the extreme ends of either economic stratum. The schedule was also devised with the knowledge that the payor will also have to pay for health insurance coverage on the children.

In order to calculate the amount of support you may receive or pay, multiply the payor's "Net Income" (Gross income less basic federal deductions) by the correct percentage for the number of children. The percentage will decrease a bit if the payor owes support on children outside of your family. **[Texas Family Code Section 154.129](#)** This is not, however, carved in stone. If tried by the Court, the amount of support you receive or pay may be more or less. The Texas Family Code sets out several factors the court may consider to deviate from the guidelines. **[Texas Family Code Section 154.123](#)**

There are no excuses for not paying your support!

As a general rule, there are no good excuses for not paying your child support or spousal support. **Your children come first when it comes to paying support, not your bills or preserving your property.** The Courts are intolerant of parties who fail to pay support and they will not hesitate to put that person in jail. Think about that before paying on that credit card bill. If you need financial direction, we have numerous resources to help you budget and plan your finances. It's a lot less costly to do that than to go to jail or pay a lawyer to try and keep you out of jail.