

Child Maintenance

Child maintenance is financial support towards your child's everyday living costs. Child maintenance is generally paid weekly or monthly and is paid to the parent with whom the child spends most of the time.

You and your ex-partner can arrange child maintenance directly between you. This is called a 'family based arrangement'.

What if we cannot agree?

If you can't agree, the Child Maintenance Service can:

- try to find the other parent if you don't know where they live;
- sort out disagreements about parentage;
- work out how much child maintenance should be paid;
- arrange for the 'paying' parent to pay child maintenance;
- pass payments on to the 'receiving';
- look at the payments again when changes in parents' circumstances are reported;
- review the payment amount every year;
- take action if payments aren't made .

The Child Support Act 1991 and the Child Maintenance Service deals almost exclusively with child maintenance. Further information can be found at the Child Maintenance options website: <http://www.cmoptions.org>

The Court has a very limited role in ordering maintenance or the variation of maintenance agreements in respect of children. However, an application may be made under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 for the following:

1. Additional child maintenance if the paying parent has more than £2000 per week in income, if the child has a disability which requires additional support, or where the child is over 18 but in continued education
2. A capital lump sum for costs directly relating to the child, for example for school or education fees or for the costs of equipping the child's home.
3. A transfer or settlement of property for the purpose of providing a home for the child during their minority. It should be noted that once the child completes secondary or tertiary education, the property which was transferred or settled will be returned to the parent who funded or provided it.

To find out more, please refer to the information sheets which can be found on our website under Resources.

 Child Arrangements
 Procedure for Financial Remedy