

**2910 – OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b>	<p>The mission of the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) is to reduce the public and private burden of raising financially abandoned children to adulthood. In Georgia, OCSS provides the following services to all families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• locate the non-custodial parent(s)</li><li>• establish and confirm paternity</li><li>• collect and distribute child support payments</li><li>• establish and enforce medical support agreements</li><li>• establish and enforce child support orders</li></ul> <p>OCSS also provides the In-Hospital Paternity Acknowledgement Program, Georgia Fatherhood Services Network and the Access and Visitation Program, all devoted to increasing non-custodial parent involvement in a child's life.</p>
<b>CONTROLLING LEGISLATION</b>	<p>The Child Support Services (CSS) program was established under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and is further developed in the Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations.</p>
<b>HISTORY</b>	<p>In 1975, the Social Security Act was amended to include Title IV-D, which requires states to establish a program to enforce the obligation of non-custodial parents to support their children.</p> <p>The federal Family Support Act of 1988 places the responsibility of paying child support on parents. Georgia enacted legislation in 1989 (HB 139) which made it one of the first states in the nation to meet the standards of the Family Support Act by setting guidelines for child support awards and requiring an income deduction for child support cases handled by OCSS.</p>

**PROCEDURES**

Anyone who receives Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or whose children are eligible for Medicaid can get assistance from OCSS without having to apply. These customers receive services through an automatic referral from DFCS.

Other applicants may apply for OCSS services at the local OCSS office in their county of residence or on-line at <http://ocse.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site>. There is an application fee for customers who do not receive state benefits.

Customers should call their local OCSS office if their child support check is late, missing or is for the wrong amount. Local office contact information can be found at:

<http://ocse.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHR-OCSE/>

Customers can then click on the “About OCSS” link for office locations and phone numbers.