

## **CHILD SUPPORT IN MAINE**

***Every child is entitled to financial support from both parents.***

In Maine, child support can be established in one of two ways: (1) by the court as part of a family matter, guardianship of a minor, child protection case, and/or a protection from abuse case; or (2) by the Division of Support Enforcement and Recovery (DSER). Child support in Maine is established using guidelines based on parents' income. To estimate a child support payment, visit:

<https://gateway.maine.gov/DHHS/cswwswebnew/Applications/cswws/index.aspx>.

### **DIVISION OF SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT & RECOVERY (DSER) GUIDE TO SERVICES -- WHAT IS "DSER" AND WHAT DOES IT DO?**

The Division of Support Enforcement and Recovery ("DSER") of Maine DHHS locates parents, establishes parentage, and establishes and enforces child support orders.

#### **SERVICES DSER CAN HELP PROVIDE**

- Locating parents.
- Determine the child's legal parents, including by genetic testing.
- Establish child support orders for current and past support, including medical support/insurance and childcare.
- Enforce child support, spousal support that accompanies child support, medical support/insurance, and childcare expenses.
- Collect, record, and send out child support payments. DSER is the recordkeeper to track payments made so that both parties can access this information at any time.
- Change or update child support at the request of either parent. DSER assists all parents with reviewing and updating child support orders when circumstances change.

#### **DSER CANNOT:**

- Provide legal advice or representation to either parent;
- Obtain divorce judgments or spousal support orders; or
- Enforce visitation rights or property division by the court.

#### **HOW TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DSER**

- Apply for services on our online portal or download an application:  
<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/child-support-services>
- Call the DSER Voice Response System at (800) 371-7179 (in ME only) or (207) 624-7830
- Email [Case.Review@maine.gov](mailto:Case.Review@maine.gov)
- Call DSER at (207) 624-4100 to speak to a Child Support worker
- Mail DSER, 109 Capitol St., 11 State House Station, Augusta ME 04333
- Visit us at your regional DHHS office