

I was served with papers from your office indicating that a request for child support has been filed. What are my options? Can I request genetic testing?

You must make arrangements to appear at the child support hearing. If you fail to appear, the Court may issue an order in your absence and you will generally lose any right to object to that order. If paternity has not been established or a paternity affidavit has not been signed, you may request a genetic test to determine if you are the biological father of the child(ren). (See Paternity Establishment). You may be represented by an attorney at the child support hearing, but the Court will not appoint an attorney for you. At the hearing, the Court will deal with issues of child support establishment, medical support and insurance. If you wish the Court to hear evidence regarding parenting time and/or custody, along with any other non-child support related issues, you will need to file such a request with the Court before the hearing date.

How is the amount of child support determined?

Child support is computed using the [Indiana Child Support Guidelines](#). A child support worksheet is prepared to determine what the appropriate child support order should be. If you would like to calculate the child support under the Indiana Guidelines, you should go to the [Indiana Child Support Calculator](#) on the state website. The income of both the mother and the father is considered, as well as overnight parenting time, other biological children the parties may have, day care expenses, and health insurance.

You should bring any papers or other documentation that you have on these issues to the hearing to establish child support. You should bring the most recent 3-4 pay stubs you have received from your employer. If you are self employed, you should bring documentation of your income and expenses. If you income fluctuates, you should bring a evidence of income over a longer period, including tax returns and accompanying documents to show what your income has been over time. In addition to income questions, the Court will need to know how much overnight parenting time the parties have had. If you have any records of parenting time, you should bring those records with you.

The Court will also need information on the cost of providing insurance for your child or children. You will need to get that information from your employer, if you don't have it already. You will be asked to provide evidence to the Court of the cost of the insurance for the child or children of the case only (not including any other children or adults that are covered).

If you have expenses for day care, or after school care or any other child care that is required because of your job, then you should bring the information about the cost of that care over a year's time. For

instance, if the cost of the care goes up and down depending on school or the season, you should bring the entire year's cost so that it can be averaged for the purposes of child support.