

Child Support



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Each case has unique facts and circumstances. The information provided in this guide is general information and is not a substitute for legal advice from an attorney. The information contained in this guide does not constitute legal advice nor is it intended to be legal advice.

What is Child Support?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

In Georgia, it is the responsibility of **both** parents to provide for the maintenance, protection and education of their minor children.

WHAT IS IT FOR

Child support is a way to ensure that both parents continue to meet their individual responsibilities for the child.

PAYMENTS TO

Child support, generally, consists of payments made by the non-custodial parent to the custodial parent for the benefit of their children.

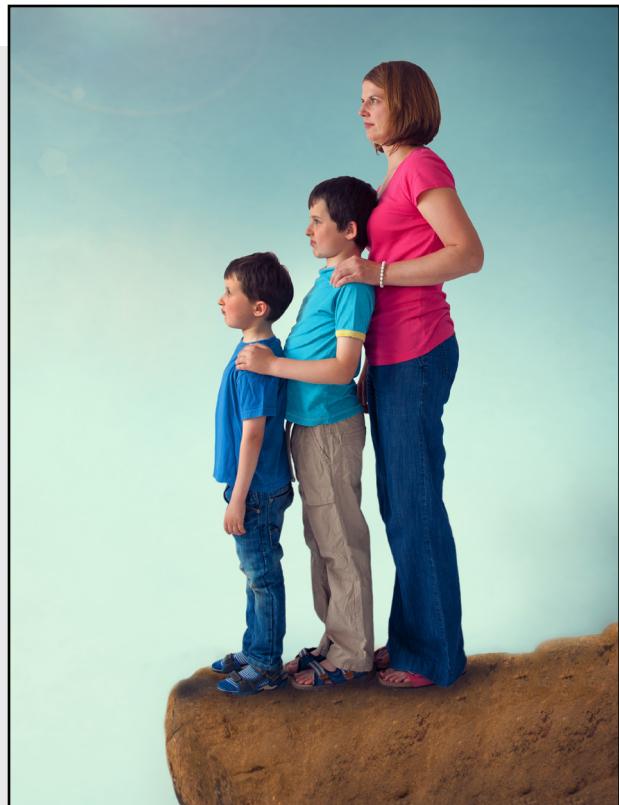


Who Pays Child Support?

Non-Custodial Parent



Custodial Parent



Typically, the non-custodial parent pays child support to the custodial parent.

The custodial parent is usually the parent that physically has custody of the child more than 50% of the time.

If both parents have equal (50/50) time with the child, the custodial parent (for purposes of child support only) is the parent with the lower child support obligation as laid out in the Georgia's Child Support Worksheet. Typically, this refers to the parent that has lower monthly income.

50/50

How is it Paid?

Normally, child support is paid:

MONTHLY



BI-MONTHLY



OR

Payments are generally made until the child graduates high school or turns 20 years of age, subject to various exceptions.



Can I Waive Child Support?

Parents cannot waive paying or receiving child support because child support belongs to the child.

How is Child Support Calculated?

Georgia law focuses on two major areas for determining child support:

Comparing each Parent's Income



&

Unique Needs of Your Child



Although these two items initially appear simple, they can be extremely complex in practice.

Who Determines Child Support?

Ultimately, the parties can either agree as to how support shall be calculated, or they can take their dispute to a judge or jury for determination.



What is Income?

Nearly anything from which you derive economic benefit is considered income for child support purposes.



Examples

Salary, commissions and bonuses, income from self-employment, fringe benefits, recurring income from pensions, interest and dividends, gifts, etc.

Practice Pointer

Variable Income

For some people, income varies greatly from year to year. For these types of cases, Georgia law states that the determination of their income: *shall be averaged... over a reasonable period of time consistent with the circumstances of the case.*

Presumptive Child Support

Georgia law uses a schedule to determine a presumptive child support amount. The schedule is based upon the gross income of both parties and the number of kids they have.

Georgia Schedule of Basic Child Support Obligations

Monthly Child Support

Income (yearly)	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children
\$25,000	\$407	\$621	\$751
\$50,000	\$757	\$1,151	\$1,388
\$75,000	\$1,028	\$1,552	\$1,859
\$100,000	\$1,178	\$1,769	\$2,109
\$200,000	\$1,781	\$2,605	\$3,020
\$300,000	\$2,340	\$3,456	\$4,049

*current as of 2025



Adjusted Support Obligation

The presumptive amount of child support may be increased or decreased by various factors, usually referred to as Adjustments or Deviations. There are two general groupings the court uses to make final child support determination:

ADJUSTMENTS

&

DEVIATIONS

Adjustments

Certain expenses, if proven, MUST adjust the presumptive amount of child support. There are four types of these expenses:

1. Parenting Time

2. Work Related Child Care

3. Health Insurance Premiums

4. Low Income



Deviations

There are a large number of Deviations the court MAY, but is NOT required to, consider when adjusting the presumptive amount of child support.



Expenses Related to Your Child

- Extracurricular Activities & Summer Camps
- Private School
- Extraordinary Health Care Costs & Child Care Expenses

Parenting Expenses

- Travel Expenses
- Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit



Why Meriwether & Tharp?



Meriwether & Tharp is one of the largest and most experienced divorce law firms in Georgia. Our firm has won numerous awards including Lawyer Monthly's Family Law firm of the Year Award for the entire USA.

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by Super Lawyers**

Exhibiting Excellence in the Practice of Law



Divorce hurts, but it doesn't have to be nasty. At Meriwether & Tharp, we believe there's a better way. Here's how we strive to provide high quality family law representation:

Educate Our Clients

Education is the foundation for success. We arm you with the knowledge you need to achieve the results you desire.

Proactive Strategy

No more guessing what comes next – you decide the pace and you control the outcome of your case.

Resolution Focus

Divorce is a puzzle, not a fight. Solutions, not blind advocacy, is our approach.

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