

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. THEY  
ARE IMPORTANT. PERIOD.**

The information presented in this brochure is meant to be an overview of the child support laws and procedures in the State of Connecticut .

It is by no means a comprehensive analysis of the law and is not a substitute for legal advice.

If you have questions regarding child support issues, you should contact a licensed attorney for legal advice.

The Law Offices of Irene C. Olszewski, LLC may be able to assist you in your child support matters.

*The information presented here is not a substitute for professional legal advice and is not intended to form an attorney/client relationship.*

*“Client-Focused Legal Solutions”*

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## **CHILD SUPPORT LAWS & PROCEDURES**



## **IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

### **AN OVERVIEW**

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## The Obligor (Payor)


If you are the non-custodial parent of a minor child or children (meaning that your child or children do *not* live with you) and the Court has ordered you to *pay* child support, you may find yourself in contempt of court for non-payment or for a sporadic payment history. Perhaps you have lost your job or have suffered a work-related injury that has prevented you from making your payments. Whatever your circumstances, if you are behind on your child support payments, you may receive a summons to appear in Court for contempt of a child support order. You may face the risk of incarceration (going to jail) and you have the right to be represented by an attorney. If your financial circumstances warrant it, you may request to have an attorney appointed by the Court at no cost to you. If your financial circumstances exceed the criteria for a Court-appointed attorney, you have the right to request a continuance (another Court date in the future) in order to retain a private attorney. Please understand that if you are summoned to Court and fail to appear, the Court may issue a *capias* (civil arrest warrant) for you. If a *capias* is issued by the court, you will be picked up by a state Marshal and incarcerated until the next session of the appropriate Court occurs.



## The Oblige (Payee)

If you are the custodial parent of a child or children (meaning that your children live *with* you) and you have a Court order awarding *you* child support which the obligor (the non-custodial parent) has not paid or does not consistently pay, you have the right to file a motion for contempt of court. You may be able to obtain the assistance of the State's Child Support Enforcement Division in your local area. The Support Enforcement Division may be able to file a motion for contempt on your behalf, but be aware that the State cannot act as your attorney in any Court proceedings. You may be able to represent yourself but if your case is complicated, the assistance of an attorney may be needed.

If the State's Child Support Enforcement Division is *unable* to assist you, you have the option of filing a motion for contempt either as a "pro se" party (meaning that *you* file the motion and represent yourself *without* an attorney) or you may retain the services of an attorney to file the motion for you and represent you in Court. If you need assistance in filing a motion for contempt or if you have already filed a motion (either as a pro se party or through the assistance of a Support Enforcement



Officer), you should contact a licensed attorney.

## Motion to Modify a Child Support Order

A child support order is determined by statutory guidelines, which are based on a specific calculation that include the obligor's (payor's) earning capacity (not actual wages). If you are the obligor (the payor) and your income has dropped by 15% or more, you *may* be able to modify your child support order downward. Contact your local Child Support Enforcement Division if you need help modifying support orders. If a motion to modify is warranted and you need the assistance of an attorney, this office may be able to assist you.

If you are the obligee (payee) of a child support order and your financial circumstances have changed -- or if the payor's income has increased by more than 15%, you may be able to request an upward modification of your current child support order. Contact your local Child Support Enforcement Division if you need help modifying support orders. If a motion to modify is warranted you may need the assistance of a licensed attorney.

