

441—99.4(234,252B) Applying the guidelines.

99.4(1) *Applying the guidelines.* Child support services will use the child support guidelines schedule as prescribed by the Iowa Supreme Court only for the number of children for whom support is being sought sharing the same two legal parents.

Exception: For foster care recovery cases, the guidelines schedule will be used as set forth in subrule 99.5(4).

99.4(2) *Establishing current support.*

a. Calculation. Child support services will calculate the amount of support as prescribed by the Iowa Supreme Court guidelines. Round amount of support to the nearest whole dollar.

b. Additional factors.

(1) In all cases other than foster care, child support services will establish current support payable in monthly frequencies.

(2) In foster care cases, child support services may establish current support payable in monthly or weekly frequencies. To establish a weekly amount, child support services will divide the figure in paragraph 99.4(2)“a” by 4.33 and round to the nearest whole dollar.

(3) If the court orders joint (equally shared) physical care of a child or split or divided physical care of multiple children, child support services will calculate current support according to the Iowa Supreme Court guidelines for each parent assuming the other is the custodial parent. If a child begins receiving family investment program (FIP) benefits or if foster care funds are expended, an offset of the two amounts as a method of payment will be disallowed.

(4) The amount of support will be zero if the noncustodial parent’s only income is Supplemental Security Income paid pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1381a (as amended to August 1, 2024).

c. Child care expense add-on. When requested by a parent and if applicable, child support services will calculate the amount of the child care add-on as prescribed by the Iowa Supreme Court guidelines.

(1) Actual child care expenses will be verified by a copy of the custodial parent’s federal or state income tax return or by a signed statement from the persons or agencies providing the child care showing the total expenses and the time period the expenses represent. The child care expenses must be reasonably expected to continue.

(2) If the child care expense verification submitted represents a period that is less than 12 months, child support services will convert the expenses provided to an annual expense amount for the calculation.

(3) If the child care expense verification submitted shows varying levels of care during the year, such as full-time summer care and part-time care before and after school during the school year, child support services will average the applicable expenses to determine an annual expense amount for the calculation.

(4) Child support services will round the calculated amount of the child care add-on to the nearest whole dollar.

(5) Any child care add-on recommended by child support services will end on the first date that the next periodic support payment becomes due after the youngest child’s thirteenth birthday. Child support services may recommend an earlier end date if the custodial parent provides a date that child care expenses are reasonably expected to end prior to the youngest child’s thirteenth birthday.

99.4(3) *Establishing accrued support debt amount.*

a. Support debt created. The payment of public assistance to or for the benefit of a dependent child or a dependent child’s caretaker creates an accrued support debt due and owing by the child’s parent to the department. The amount of the accrued support debt is based on the period of time public assistance payment or foster care funds were expended, but is not created for the period of receipt of public assistance on the parent’s own behalf for the benefit of the dependent child or the child’s caretaker.

b. Calculating accrued support debt. Child support services will calculate the accrued support debt as follows:

(1) For FIP benefits, child support services will use the period for which FIP was paid during the 36 months preceding the date the notice of support debt is prepared or the date the petition is filed. For foster care assistance, child support services will use the three-month period for which foster care assistance was paid prior to the date the initial notice to the noncustodial parent of the amount of support obligation is prepared, or the date a written request for a court hearing is received, whichever is earlier.

(2) Child support services will exclude periods the noncustodial parent received public assistance as a part of this eligible group.

(3) Child support services may extend the period to include any additional periods public assistance is expended prior to the entry of the order.

(4) Child support services will calculate the amount of the obligation by using the current net income of both parents, the guidelines in effect at the time the order is entered, and the number of children of the noncustodial parent who were receiving public assistance for each month for which accrued support is sought.

(5) Child support services will calculate the total amount of the FIP support debt by multiplying the number of months for which assistance was paid times the determined guidelines amount, excluding any applicable child care add-on amount.

(6) Child support services may calculate the total amount of the foster care support debt by multiplying the number of months for which assistance was paid times the determined guidelines amount, excluding any applicable child care add-on amount, and will adjust this amount for weeks in which no foster care benefits were paid.

c. Establishing the accrued support repayment amount.

(1) In cases other than foster care, child support services will establish the repayment amount as follows:

1. When there is an ongoing obligation, the monthly repayment amount will be 10 percent of the ongoing amount, including any child support, child care add-on and cash medical support ordered, unless the noncustodial parent agrees to a higher amount.

2. When the order does not include ongoing support, the monthly repayment amount will be the same as the amount for ongoing child support that would have been due if such an obligation had been established. However, when all of the children for whom accrued support debt is sought are residing with the noncustodial parent, the monthly repayment amount will be set at 10 percent of this amount.

(2) In foster care cases, child support services will establish the repayment amount in the same manner as subparagraph 99.4(3)“c”(1), but may establish weekly amounts and if the order does not include ongoing support, the repayment amount will be set at 10 percent of the amount for ongoing child support that would have been due if such an obligation had been established.

99.4(4) *Children in nonparental homes or foster care.* The parents of a child in a nonparental home or in foster care are severally liable for the support of the child. A support obligation will be established separately for each parent.

a. Parents' location known. When the location is known for both parents having a legal obligation to provide support for their children, the income of both parents will be used to determine the amount of ongoing support in accordance with the child support guidelines.

(1) Calculating support amount. There will be a separate calculation of each parent's child support amount, regardless of whether the parents are married and living together, or living separately. Each calculation will assume that the parent for whom support is being calculated is the noncustodial parent and the other parent is the custodial parent.

(2) Prior orders. If only one parent is paying support under a prior order for the children for whom support is being calculated, the amount of support paid will not be deducted from that parent's net monthly income in computing the support amount for the other parent.

b. One parent's location unknown. When the location of one parent is not known, procedures will be initiated to establish a support order against the parent whose location is known in accordance with the mandatory support guidelines as follows:

(1) The parent whose location is known will be considered the noncustodial parent and that parent's income will be used to calculate child support.

(2) The income of the parent whose location is unknown will be determined by using the estimated median income for parents on the child support services caseload and that parent will be considered the custodial parent in calculating child support.

c. When one parent is deceased or has had parental rights terminated, the method used to calculate support when one parent's location is not known will be used. The parent who is deceased or has had parental rights terminated will be considered the custodial parent with zero income.

99.4(5) *Adjustment for extraordinary visitation or parenting time.* Child support services will calculate an extraordinary visitation or parenting time credit as specified in the Iowa Supreme Court guidelines. The credit will not reduce the child support below the amount required by the Iowa Supreme Court guidelines.

The extraordinary visitation adjustment or parenting time credit will be given if all of the following apply:

a. There is an existing order for the noncustodial parent that meets the criteria for extraordinary visitation or parenting time in excess of 127 overnights per year on an annual basis for the child for whom support is sought. The order granting visitation or parenting time can be a different order than the child support order. If a controlling order is determined pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 252K and that controlling support order does not meet the criteria for extraordinary visitation or parenting time, there is another order that meets the criteria.

b. The noncustodial parent has provided child support services with a file-stamped or certified copy of the order.

c. The court has not ordered equally shared physical care.

99.4(6) *Establishing medical support.* Child support services will calculate medical support as required by Iowa Code chapter 252E and the Iowa Supreme Court guidelines. The cost of the health insurance premium for the child is added to the basic support obligation and prorated between the parents as provided in the Iowa Supreme Court guidelines and the parent ordered to provide health insurance must provide verification of this expense or anticipated expense.

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