



**Child support, Medical support,
and Safety**

Child Support



- Child support is a complex system that we will not go into detail about here.
 - For more in depth information about Child Support, check out our online learning course on the topic.
- However, there are some specifics about child support and healthcare that this section will highlight.

Medical Support

- When a Child Support order is established, there are two kinds of support that are pursued:

Cash support



Medical support



Medical Support and Welfare



- If a survivor is on TANF a child support case will be opened.
 - If the survivor fears for her safety because of this, she can ask her case worker at the welfare office for **“good cause.”**
 - If “good cause” is approved, a child support case will not be opened or there will be protections for the survivor when going after support.
- Click [here](#) for more detailed information about “good cause” and child support.

What you need to know about Medical Support



- Medical support requires the non-custodial parent (NCP), aka the parent who the child does not live with most of the time, to help support the child's medical care.
- This can be done a couple of different ways:
 - If the NCP has private health insurance (through the employer or as an individual), they must add the child to that insurance.
 - If the NCP does not have insurance but has income, their wages could be garnished to cover the costs of the child's medical coverage.

What this means for survivors



- Getting medical support could be a big help for survivors who are custodial parents (CP).
 - They get medical coverage for their kids, or they get reimbursed for some of the costs.
- However, going after medical support could also lead to re-engagement from the abuser or even increased or renewed abuse.
- Having all the details will help survivors make an informed decision about medical support that works for them.

More safety considerations



- It may be important for survivors to know that once their child is on the NCP's health insurance, the NCP may get statements from the insurance company whenever the child uses it.
- For example: A child gets allergy shots once a week on Thursdays. The NCP gets a statement for each of these visits with the location of the clinic, doctor's name, and dates of service.
 - If the NCP is an abuser, this could be a big safety risk as they now know where the survivor and the child will be every Thursday.

More safety considerations



- There are some protections available through the Division of Child Support (DCS) that restrict the NCP from seeing a CP's address.
- However, once information is shared with insurance companies or employers, the protections for personal information may not be as strong.

Note: If a survivor wants Medical Support but does not want the NCP's employer to have her address, she can tell her DCS worker and she will be able to use DCS's address.



Making a decision

- If a survivor is a CP and is not on TANF, it is her choice whether or not to open a child support/medical support case.
 - So she can weigh the facts and have the freedom to make her own decision.
- If a survivor is receiving TANF she must ask her case worker at the welfare office about applying for “good cause” if she does not want DCS to pursue child support/medical support or would like her address protected.



Resources

- **Health Cares About IPV** (though Futures Without Violence)
<http://www.healthcaresaboutipv.org/>
- **National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence**
<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health/national-health-resource-center-on-domestic-violence/>
- **Futures Without Violence Advocate Toolkit**
<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/?s=Advocate+Tool+Kit>



Congratulations!



- You've completed this portion of the course, now it's time to see how much you can remember.
- Click the link below to test yourself and to signal to us that you have completed this section so we can record your credit.
- No worries – we're not grading the quiz!
- [Take the Quiz](#)