

# 10 Tips For Child Support Recipients

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1. Document every payment, the date you received it, and the form of payment. Also note missed payments. Consider this your "Support Journal" - it will be helpful should you need to return to court over support issues.

2. Try not to rely on the support payment when budgeting. Unfortunately, late delivery of support payments is more the rule than the exception, which can make staying on top of bills difficult. Structure your budget operating from the assumption that the support will be late.

3. Don't permit 'deductions' from the support payment. If the non-custodial parent buys a child something, do not suggest or allow them to 'deduct' the payment from their support check the next month. This can quickly get messy and confusing or create a bad habit.

4. Don't retaliate to a lack of payment by withholding visitation. Two wrongs don't make a right, and should you need to return to court over support issues, having

withheld visitation will weigh negatively against you.

5. Negotiate support payments made by check right away. Waiting to cash a check for an extended period can cause issues such as over-drafting the support payor's account - which will only cause problems.

6. Be careful about deviating too far from the custody arrangements outlined in your order. If you fall into a *de facto* joint-custody arrangement, the court may not enforce your right to child support. Consult an attorney if the current arrangement may need modification.

7. Remember the support obligations can be modified, consult with an attorney if a child's expenses increase (as they tend as the kids get older) or if you believe the support payor has had a significant increase in income.

8. If either party relocates out-of-state, consult with an attorney. Support rights or obligations may have changed as a result.

9. Don't discuss support with a child. I know that support issues can cause problems between parents, but you shouldn't let that trickle down to the children. Avoid making excuses to your children that you can't pay for something because the child support check hasn't come. This only hurts the kids.

10. Don't involve the children in the delivery of the payment. While it may seem easy to have a child bring back the support check after visitation, this should be avoided. This places a child between parents in a way that is beneficial to no one.



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