

## **Child & Medical Support Establishment**

### **Child Support Guidelines**

Child Support orders are established in Ohio either in a court of law or by administrative procedure. An administrative order is established and approved through our CSEA office and generally has the same effect as an order established by a court. It is legally binding on the parties concerned.

The State of Ohio utilizes standardized guidelines to set all child support amounts. The guidelines are, in essence, a formula for the calculation of child support orders. Ohio uses an income shares model which calculates a child support order by the standard of living that a child would experience if the parents were in the same household. The guidelines are based on the assumption that parents of a child should share in the responsibility of the financial support of children in proportion to their income. Only courts have the authority to deviate from the guidelines.

### **Medical Support Orders**

Our CSEA office is responsible for establishing health insurance orders for child support cases when coverage is available and reasonable or expected to become available. Health insurance coverage is considered available and reasonable if it can be obtained by a parent through the parent's employer or other group health insurance plan. Health insurance includes fee for service, health maintenance organizations (HMO), preferred provider organizations (PPO), and other types of coverage that could provide medical services to the child.

CSEA offices are required to send a National Medical Support Notice to the employer of the medical insurance obligor when new or changed employment occurs.