

Graduation Information

Is Your Child Turning 18 and/or Graduating From High School?



Generally speaking under Ohio law, unless ordered by the court, current child support terminates upon the emancipation of the child. The most common reason for child support to terminate is when the child turns age 18 and graduates (emancipates) from an accredited high school. A child support order shall not remain in effect past 19 years of age, unless ordered by the court.



There are other reasons for termination of support that will be discussed in a separate fact sheet.

What Is An Accredited High School?

Accreditation is the recognition that an institution maintains standards required for its graduates to gain admission to other reputable institutions of higher learning or to achieve credentials for professional practice.

To see if your school is accredited by the State Department of Education and State Board of Education, please visit <http://webapp2.ode.state.oh.us/oeds-r/query>.

How Does The CSEA Know When My Child Support Will End?

If you are a custodial parent, you must notify the CSEA of the date your child is going to turn 18 and graduate (emancipate). If you are the non custodial parent you should also notify the CSEA when your child is going to be 18 and graduate from high school.



Failure to report when your child is 18 and graduated could lead to the case being overpaid. This could result in the overpaid parent having to repay funds.

It is your responsibility to keep the CSEA updated with your child's emancipation date.

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What Happens Next With My Order?



An investigation will take place at the CSEA. You may be asked to provide documentation of your child's full time enrollment in an accredited high school. The caseworker will issue findings and recommendations, which could include termination of current support (if the child has graduated or no longer in high school), continuation of current support (if the child is still in high school), the amount of past due support (arrears) or the amount overpaid. If you disagree with the findings and recommendations, you are given the right to object.

If support is overpaid at the time of investigation, the CSEA may seek to impound (hold) support for the emancipating child until the process is complete.



Once the objection period has ended, the recommendations will be adopted by the Court or CSEA. An updated income withholding may be sent to your employer. If past due support is owed on the order, payment will be required until the past due support is paid in full. Any wage withholding order shall remain in effect and the CSEA will continue to provide services until the order is paid in full.

If you currently carry your child on your employer health insurance, please discuss your options with your employer.



Current support for the remaining minor children on the order will continue during the emancipation process. If your order is paid in full at the time of the youngest child's emancipation, the CSEA will close your case.

If your order was impounded (held), any money on hold will be released at the end of the child support emancipation process. If you have any questions about money being held on your order, please contact your local CSEA.



Contact your child support agency for more information if you have questions.