



Graduation Information

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



Generally speaking, under Ohio law, unless otherwise ordered by the court, current child support terminates upon the child reaching 18 and graduating from an accredited high school, whichever occurs last. A child support order shall not remain in effect past the child's 19th birthday, unless otherwise 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 contact your State Department of Education/State Board of Education.

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. Your CSEA will issue findings and recommendations, which could include termination of current support, continuation of current support, the amount of past due support (arrears) or the amount overpaid. If you disagree with the findings and recommendations, you will have 14 days from the issuance date of the findings and recommendations 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 termination process is complete.



Once the objection period has ended, the recommendations will be adopted by the Court or CSEA and an order will be issued. An updated income withholding may be sent to your employer. If past due support is still 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 private insurance, please discuss your options with your employer.



Current support for the remaining minor children on the order will continue during the termination 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 termination process. If you have any questions about the termination process or money being held on your order, please contact your local CSEA.



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