



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW CHILD SUPPORT LAW REFLECTS PARENTING EXPENSES MORE ACCURATELY

Parents with court-ordered parenting time may be affected by the new law.

A new law, that took effect August 1, could help thousands of families who have a child support order that includes parenting time. The new parenting expense adjustment law uses a new formula to change how courts adjust basic child support for parenting time expenses based on the number of court-ordered overnights parents spend with their children. The new law helps reduce conflict between parents over parenting time, acknowledges increased parenting time means increased expenses, and recognizes a child's need to have the "basics" in both homes.

Child support orders will not change automatically because of this new law, so parents must take action if they want to pursue an adjustment. Depending on how their existing court order determines parenting time, parents interested in pursuing a change must file a motion or petition with the court. They can also call their county child support office for more information about how the new adjustment could affect their child support. The court may modify child support if the new amount is at least \$75 and 20 percent higher or lower than the existing order.

"This change in the law provides for a better calculation for parents that have court-ordered parenting time," said Karen Holt, Crow Wing County Child Support Supervisor, "and it allows for and acknowledges actual time spent with each parent. This change will affect each case differently. Parents may want to make use of the online child support calculator before seeking any formal change to their order."

"Crow Wing County child support officers work closely with our county attorney's office and benefits children by enforcing parental responsibility for their support", said Sheila Skogen, Crow Wing County Operations Manager. "Both have worked closely with the state through various community forums and workgroups in an attempt to solve some of the most difficult child support issues, such as this parenting time adjustment".

County and State child support offices provided services to almost 346,000 parents and their 240,000 children in 217,000 cases in federal fiscal year 2017. This new law is likely to affect at least 38,000 of these cases and possibly more depending on the details of the additional cases.

Crow Wing County Child Support serves 3391 cases and collected 8.3 million in child support in federal fiscal year 2017.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

*****For more information regarding the child support program and the guideline calculator go to
www.childsupport.dhs.state.mn.us *****

Community Services administers more than seventy federal and state benefit and assistance services and programs to residents in Crow Wing County. The Department is dedicated to providing excellent service and efficient management in performing its mission of promoting and protecting the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of all Crow Wing County residents.

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