

Child support – receiving payments after your benefit stops

This factsheet gives you the options for receiving child support payments when you stop receiving a sole parent benefit.

If you're receiving a sole parent benefit, your child support is paid to the government to help pay for your benefit.

If you stop receiving a sole parent benefit, you can choose to:

- make a private arrangement with the liable parent and tell us to stop collecting your child support
- make a child support voluntary agreement with the liable parent, which we'll administer on your behalf
- continue receiving your current formula assessed child support entitlement from us direct.

If you choose to make a private arrangement

If you and the liable parent make a private arrangement for child support and you don't want us involved, you can cancel your child support with us by completing a *Cancelling your child support (IR 107)* form. You can download a copy from www.ird.govt.nz "Forms and guides" or call 0800 257 773 and we'll send you a copy.

If another person is a recognised carer of the child or children in a formula assessment, they must agree to cancel the formula. This can be done by all carers of the child completing a *Cancellation of child support (IR107)* form.

We'll stop your child support when we receive your completed form.

If you choose to make a voluntary child support agreement

If you and the liable parent agree on an amount of child support but would still like us to collect it, you can register a voluntary agreement with us. If you meet the conditions and we accept this agreement, it cancels any formula assessed child support you may have.



Meeting the conditions

The voluntary agreement needs to be:

- in writing
- made between the liable parent and the receiving carer, both of whom must be either New Zealand citizens or ordinarily resident in New Zealand
- for a "qualifying child", ie, a child under 18 years of age or 18 years of age and enrolled at and attending a registered school in New Zealand or an overseas school, a New Zealand citizen or ordinarily resident in New Zealand, not financially independent and not living with another person in a marriage, civil union or de facto relationship
- for regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments of at least \$10 per week (\$520 per year)
- signed by both the liable parent and the receiving carer.

You can register a voluntary agreement with us by completing a *Registration of voluntary agreement for child support (IR102)* form, and attaching a copy of the signed agreement if you have one.

For more information about voluntary agreements read our factsheet *Child support - voluntary agreements (IR157)*.

If you choose to continue with your formula assessed child support

If you still want us to collect child support from the liable parent and make payments to you direct, please contact us to confirm this and to make sure we have all your up-to-date information.

Note: If you don't contact us, your payments may be delayed while we try to contact you.

Receiving your first child support payment

We collect child support one month in arrears, on the 20th of the month. If the liable parent pays on time, we'll pay you by the 7th of the following month, eg, a child support payment for August is paid by 7 October. You should receive your first payment approximately eight weeks after your benefit is cancelled.

You can contact us to find out more information about your entitlement.

Why your child support payments may be different

There may be times when your child support payments differ from the amount we advise you'll receive. We can only pay you the amount of child support we collect from the liable parent. If they pay late, you'll receive your payment late.

Your first payment may only be for part of the month, eg, if your benefit stops on 21 August, your child support will be paid for the period 21 August to 31 August.

Where to find more information

If you'd like more information about child support, go to our website www.ird.govt.nz/childsupport This site offers general child support information.

If you register for myIR Secure Online Services at www.ird.govt.nz you can check your child support payments, update your details online and correspond with us by secure email whenever you like.

You can view copies of all our forms and guides by going to www.ird.govt.nz and selecting "Forms and guides". You can also order copies by calling 0800 257 773.

How to contact us

By email

Send a secure email through myIR Secure Online Services at any time. You'll need to register first at www.ird.govt.nz

By phone

From New Zealand	0800 221 221 (8 am to 5 pm weekdays)
From Australia	1800 504 042 (8 am to 5 pm New Zealand standard time weekdays)
From other countries	+64 9 984 2537 (8 am to 5 pm New Zealand standard time weekdays)

By fax

From overseas only	+64 7 959 7602
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www.ird.govt.nz

Go to our website for information, services and tools.

- **myIR secure online services** – log in to check and update your account information, file your EMS, IR 3 or GST return, request or confirm your PTS and send us secure mail.
- **Get it done online** – complete and send us forms and returns, make payments, make an appointment to see us and give us feedback.
- **Work it out** – use our calculators, worksheets and tools to help you manage your tax business, like checking your tax code, or your filing and payment dates.
- **Forms and guides** – download our guides and print forms to post to us.
- **Contact us** – for phone numbers, addresses and contact options.

You can also subscribe to our newsletters at www.ird.govt.nz/subscribe and follow us on Twitter @NZInlandRevenue.

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