

Child support - non-parent carers

This factsheet tells you when a non-parent carer can apply for child support.

Who is a non-parent carer?

You are a non-parent carer if you provide care for a child but you are not the child's parent. For example,

- a grandparent
- another family member
- a family friend
- a guardian
- any other person who provides ongoing daily care.

Being eligible for child support

As a non-parent carer, you are eligible for child support if:

- you care for the child at least 128 nights a year (at least 35% of the time)
- you are not living in a marriage, civil union or de facto relationship with the child's parent
- you are not receiving board and lodging payments from Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children.

If you receive a benefit at the sole parent rate or unsupported child's benefit, you will need to apply for child support when you apply for a benefit from Work and Income.

How to apply for a formula assessment

You can apply for child support against each parent of the child in your care by completing an **Application to assess child support by a non-parent carer - IR954** form. We will assess and collect any child support payable.

When you apply for a benefit, you will complete this form at Work and Income and they will send it to us.

If your benefit is cancelled or you do not receive a benefit

You can do one of the following:

- make a private arrangement with the liable parent and tell us to stop collecting your child support
- make a voluntary child support agreement with the liable parent, which we can administer for you
- continue your child support formula assessment. The child support will be paid to you
- apply for a child support formula assessment.



Private arrangements

You can make a private child support arrangement with either parent or with both parents. You do not need to involve us, as long as you do not receive a benefit at the sole parent rate or unsupported child's benefit for the child.

Voluntary agreements

Working out your own agreement gives you and the parent(s) certainty, because you decide on an amount of child support that you both agree is fair. You can change the amount payable at any time, but you both have to agree to any changes. You can register your agreement with us and we will administer the payments.

To find out more or register a voluntary agreement, complete a **Registration of voluntary agreement for child support - IR102** form. Go to ird.govt.nz/forms-guides

Managing your child support

If we accept your application to receive child support, we'll create child support records for you, the child and their parents. We will contact you if we need more information. Otherwise, you and the parents will each receive a letter from us confirming that child support records exist and what this means for each of you.

Payment waiver

Non-parent carers can waive the right to receive child support from one of the parents as long as they are not receiving an unsupported child's benefit for the child or a benefit at the sole parent rate. An assessment is still completed for that parent but we will tell them they do not need to make payments.

When and how you get paid

Child support is usually due to be paid by the liable parents on the 20th of the following month. If they pay on time, we will pay you by the 23rd of the month. For example, a child support payment for August is due on 20 September. If it is paid on time, we will pay you by 23 September.

If you receive a benefit at the sole parent rate or unsupported child's benefit for the child in your care, we will pass the payments from the liable parent on to the government to help cover the cost of your benefit. You will receive any amount left over.

Example

Your child support entitlement is \$1,000 a month and you receive benefit payments of \$800 a month. When the liable parent pays, the government will receive \$800 and you will get \$200 a month.

But, if your child support entitlement is \$550 and you receive benefit payments of \$800 a month, the child support payments will all go to the government.

Cancelling your child support formula assessment

You can cancel child support if you are not receiving a benefit at the sole parent rate or unsupported child's benefit. To cancel your child support, you need to complete a **Cancelling your child support - IR107** form.

Where to find more information

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

If you register for myIR secure online services at ird.govt.nz/myIR you'll be able to 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 ird.govt.nz/forms-guides

How to contact us

If you need to contact us including from overseas go to ird.govt.nz/contact-us