

Q: I received paperwork stating that “You have been sued” by the State of Nebraska. What does this mean?

A: In any legal proceeding, all the relevant parties have to be served with documents to let them know that the case has begun. Because you are the parent or alleged parent of a child for whom the case has been filed, the court requires that we serve you with documents. Carefully read the filing you received. It will detail what our office intends to ask the Court to order. 30 days after both parents have been served, CSE will schedule a hearing and send notice to you. Make sure your address is updated with us to ensure you receive that notice. You also have the right to file a response with the Court. Please understand that the child support call center, the Sarpy County Attorney’s Office, and the district court clerk are not able to provide you information about what the contents of your answer should be. The only information those offices can provide you is that your answer should be written, contain a case number, and be filed with the District Court Clerk’s office within 30 days of having been served.

Q: I received paperwork naming me as the father of a minor child and I would like to request genetic testing. When is it available to me and how do I ask for it?

A: If paternity is legally at issue in a case, you can ask that CSE schedule genetic testing at no initial cost to you. If you did not sign an acknowledgment of paternity and are not married to the child’s mother, you can request that CSE set up genetic testing by either contacting us at 877-631-9973 or filing an answer with the court. If you signed a notarized acknowledgment of paternity, CSE will not schedule genetic testing without a court order.

Q: I have questions about custody and parenting time. Who can help me?

A: CSE cannot help parents with custody or visitation issues as Nebraska statute does not allow us to do so. You will need to contact a private attorney for help in these areas. Please see the other side of this sheet for legal resources that may be able to help you. Please note that this includes any concern about not being able to see your child.

Q: I have an ongoing support order. How can I change the amount?

A: If there is a significant change in the income of either parent, **either** parent may request that the court order for child support be reviewed. In Nebraska, both parent's incomes are used to compute the monthly support obligation. Child support guideline worksheets and tables are used to calculate support obligations. If you believe the amount of current child support should be changed due to a substantial change in circumstances or it has been more than three years since the order was issued, modified, or reviewed, you can request that the State review your order. If an adjustment is appropriate, the new amount could be higher or lower than the amount in your current order. If you are interested in requesting a Review and Modification, please call 1-877-631-9973, option 2, to request a packet or go to the CSE website and fill out an application online: <https://dhhs-rmnpa.ne.gov/RMNPAApp/>. Please note that the Review and Modification process can take 6-12 months. Parents can also file their own modification with the Court, either representing themselves or through an attorney.

Q. I was previously ordered to pay child support, but now my child lives with me. Can you stop my child support order, and help me get a new one where the other parent pays me?

A. Only a court can legally change an existing child custody order. Courts determine what is in the “best interests” of minor children when they issue a custody order. Parents cannot agree between themselves to override this judicial determination. A child support enforcement office is not authorized to become involved with custody determination issues. You should consult a private attorney to assist you in this regard.

LEGAL RESOURCE INFORMATION:

Please note that the Sarpy County Attorney's Office, the Nebraska Child Support Call Center, and the District Court Clerk are **NOT ABLE** to provide you legal advice. This means they are not able to tell you what you should file or what any filing should say. If you have questions about what you should file or how to proceed, you may consult a private attorney or the resources listed below.

Legal Aid of Nebraska, 209 S. 19th St., Suite 200. Omaha, NE 68102

- <http://www.legalaidofnebraska.org/>
- 1-877-250-2016

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic at Creighton University School of Law

- 402-280-3068, Monday – Friday 9 am-4 pm

Nebraska Volunteer Lawyers Project:

- <http://www.nebar.com/default.asp?page=VLPPublic>
- 402-742-8136

Douglas County Self-Help Desk:

- In Douglas County Courthouse, 17th and Farnam Street (across from law library)
- Open Mondays and Wednesday, 10 am -2 pm

Nebraska Online Legal Self-Help Center:

- <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/self-help/welcome>

NE Free Legal Answers

- www.NE.FreeLegalAnswers.org