

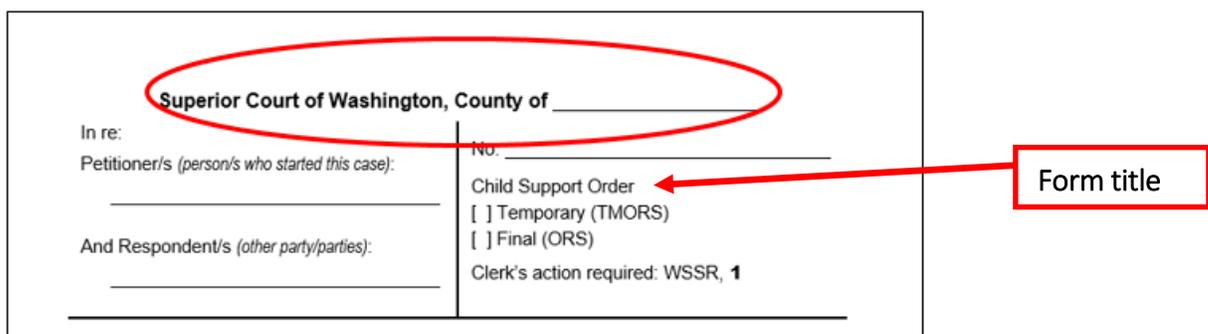
I have been served with papers to change my child support. What should I do?

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- ❖ Read this only if you live in the state of Washington or have received papers about child support from the state of Washington.
 - ❖ You can find all the fact sheets and packets we link to here at WashingtonLawHelp.org.
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1. Talk to a lawyer right away. Talk with one with family law expertise, if you can afford one. If you do not have a lot of money, see below.

2. If you cannot get legal advice soon, you should figure out if this is a court case or an administrative case.

In Washington, a court order is a **Child Support Order** from a **Superior Court**. It will say this on the first page, towards the top.



The image shows a portion of a legal form. At the top, the text "Superior Court of Washington, County of _____" is circled in red. Below this, the form is divided into two columns. The left column contains the following text: "In re:", "Petitioner/s (person/s who started this case):", a blank line, "And Respondent/s (other party/parties):", and another blank line. The right column contains: "No. _____", "Child Support Order", "[] Temporary (TMORS)", "[] Final (ORS)", and "Clerk's action required: WSSR, 1". A red arrow points from a red-bordered box labeled "Form title" to the "Child Support Order" text.

If your papers say “State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services Division of Child Support” or “State of Washington Office of Administrative Hearings” at the top, **you do not have a court order**. You have an **administrative order**. Do not use this packet. Read [Do You Owe Child Support?](#)

3. If this is a court case, figure out which packet you need to respond.

Look at the **title** of your papers in the upper right section of the first page, under the case number.

- If you received a Summons and Petition to Modify Child Support Order, use [Respond to a Petition to Modify Your Child Support Court Order](#).
- If you received a Motion to Adjust Child Support Order, use [Respond to a Motion to Adjust Your Child Support Order](#).
- If you received a Notice of Hearing or Note for Calendar Motion and a Motion for Temporary Family Law Order, your case could be one of several types of family law cases. Get the right **Respond to Motions for Temporary Family Law Orders or Immediate Restraining Orders** packet for your type of case.

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- ❖ **Act fast to figure out how to respond, and how much time you have to do it.** If you do not respond, or you do not respond in time, the other party will probably win automatically.

 - ❖ **If you were served with a Petition**, you will have anywhere from 20 to 90 days from the time you received the court papers to respond. **If you were served with a Motion**, you may have as few as four business days after getting the court papers to respond. If the notice does not say your deadline, immediately call the clerk for the court where the motion was filed to ask what the deadline is.

 - ❖ The packet you use will have more about your deadline. It will also help you with what to do if you miss or cannot meet your deadline.
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Get Legal Help

Outside King County, call the CLEAR Hotline at 1-888-201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 am - 12:15 pm.

In King County, call 2-1-1 weekdays between 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. They will refer you to a legal aid provider.

Seniors (age 60 and over) can also call CLEAR*Sr at 1-888-387-7111 (statewide).

You can also **apply online** with CLEAR*Online: nwjustice.org/get-legal-help.

CLEAR and 211 will conference in interpreters when needed.

This publication provides general information concerning your rights and responsibilities. It is not intended as a substitute for specific legal advice.

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