



Child support responsibilities when you leave prison

This kit aims to make it easier for you to meet your child support responsibilities when you leave prison.

When you leave prison you must tell the Child Support Agency (CSA):

1. **your new address details**
2. **when your income changes**
3. **changes in employment**
4. **if the care arrangements for your children have changed**
5. **if you appoint someone else to deal with CSA for you.**

We understand leaving prison and re-building your life can be a difficult and we hope the information included in this kit assists you.

Included in this kit:

- **Fact sheets**
 - Making payments to CSA
 - What you should know about minimum assessments
- **Forms**
 - Application to Reduce Minimum Assessment to Nil
 - Estimate of Income for use in Child Support Assessment
 - Representative's Authority

Why should I tell CSA when I leave prison?

You need to tell us about any changes so we can make sure your child support assessment is always based on the right information. When you leave prison there are a number of things that will change that CSA needs to know.

- **Your address:** CSA will need to inform you of certain things including changes about your case. So we need your current address and contact details.
- **Your income:** if your child support assessment was based on an estimate of your income while you were in prison you will need to review that estimate if you start working or obtain new sources of income. It is better to review your estimate as soon as your earnings change in order to avoid any possible overdue payments, or penalties for under estimating.
- **Your children's care:** if your children will be returning to your care (full-time or part-time) your assessment may need to be changed.
- **Your authorised representative:** while you were in prison you may have appointed someone to deal with CSA for you. You can leave that arrangement in place or contact us to let us know you don't want that to happen anymore.



What if I don't tell you about leaving prison? What will happen?

If you do not let CSA know you have left prison you may generate outstanding child support payments because your assessment is based on wrong details. In most cases CSA can only make a change to your case from the date you tell us of the change.

What if I owe child support?

If you owe child support then you need to pay that money. It is better to talk to us about the best way for you to clear any overdue payments. This agreement (payment arrangement) will take into account your current situation. If an arrangement is not made then we may take further action to recover any outstanding amounts.

There is more information about dealing with overdue child support in the fact sheet '*Overdue child support*' included in this kit.

What if I get back together with my partner?

If you and your partner get back together you must notify both Centrelink and CSA immediately.

It is important to contact Centrelink straight away so they can make sure you are getting your correct payments. If you owe child support and you get back together with the other parent, CSA will ask them if they want us to continue to collect the outstanding child support. The other parent should check with Centrelink to find out if this decision will have any impact on their entitlements.

What do I need to do if I start looking after the kids again?

If you are going to be looking after your kids, either part-time or full-time, when you leave prison you should contact CSA to find out how this will affect you. You may need to lodge a new application for an assessment.

The form to lodge an 'Application for an assessment' with CSA is included in this kit.

Are you a Centrelink customer?

If you have told CSA about changes in your circumstances, you also need to let Centrelink know as well.

You can contact Centrelink on **136 150** (call charges apply).



Other CSA support products

The CSA can put you in touch with people who can help with parenting, financial, relationship, emotional or other issues. Services available in your local area are outlined in the Community Services Directory on our website www.csa.gov.au. If you don't have access to the internet, please call us on **131 272** and we'll search the directory for you.

CSA recognises that separation can be difficult. That's why we have a series of free, helpful booklets. These booklets are full of real-life experiences, practical tips and hints and shared insights. A list of these booklets can be found on the back page of this fact sheet.

Family relationships advice

If you want more information about the family law system and services that can assist you, contact the Family Relationship Advice Line on **1800 050 321** or visit Family Relationships Online at www.familyrelationships.gov.au

This free service assists people from families affected by relationship and separation issues. You can also ask staff at the Advice Line about Family Relationship Centres which have been designed to help strengthen family relationships as well as help families deal with separation.

The Family Relationship Advice Line operates from 8am–8pm Monday to Friday and 10am–4pm on Saturdays excluding public holidays. Calls to the Advice Line are free (extra charges apply to calls from mobile and public phones).

CSAonline

This is a secure online service where you can view and update your child support information when it suits you. Go to www.csa.gov.au to enrol.



For further information and help

Call CSA on **131 272**[†]

Call the Telephone Interpreting Service on **131 450**

Visit the CSA website **www.csa.gov.au**

Ask your representative to assist.

Support Services

Family Relationship Advice Line

Phone: **1800 050 321**

www.familyrelationships.gov.au

8am–8pm weekdays, 10am–4pm Sat. (public holidays excluded)

Assists people from families affected by relationship or separation issues.

Other CSA resources:

Getting Started—information about child support for separated parents.

Me and My series of self-help booklets (available in a range of languages and as audio downloads).

Dealing with Separation interactive CD Rom.

Family Separation: a guide for teens—helping young people cope with family separation and change.

CSAonline—this is a secure online service where you can view and update your child support information when it suits you. Go to **www.csa.gov.au** to enrol.

To order any free CSA publication or more fact sheets visit **www.csa.gov.au** or freecall **1800 040 972** (charges apply to mobile and public phones).

Your privacy

CSA collects information about you and your family for child support purposes. We understand that some information is sensitive, and we place great importance on protecting your privacy. For more information see the *Privacy* fact sheet.

The Australian Government Services Fraud tip-off line

The Australian Government Services Fraud tip-off line provides people with a place to report suspected fraud against Centrelink, Medicare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme or the Child Support Agency. If you have information about someone who is mis-using government services, call **131 524**.

*Call charges may apply to the telephone numbers listed.

[†]Please note: your call may be recorded.

Do you need interpreting help?

If you don't speak English and need help from CSA, ring the Telephone Interpreting Service on **131 450**.

ARABIC إذا كنت لا تتحدث اللغة الإنكليزية والحجت إلى مساعدة من Child Support Agency. اتصل بخدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفوية (TIS) على الرقم 13 14 50.

CHINESE 如果您不說英語，但需要Child Support Agency的協助，請致電翻譯及傳譯服務處(TIS)，電話13 14 50。

CROATIAN Ako ne govorite engleski i trebate pomoć Child Support Agency, nazovite Službu prevoditelja i tumača (TIS) na 13 14 50.

FARSI اگر انگلیسی نمی‌دانید و به کمک Child Support Agency نیاز دارید به سرویس ترجمه کتبی و شفاهی (TIS) ، شماره 13 14 50 تلفن کنید.

GREEK Αν δεν μιλάτε Αγγλικά και χρειάζεστε βοήθεια από το Child Support Agency, τηλεφωνήστε στη Μεταφραστική και Τηλεφωνική Υπηρεσία (TIS) στο 13 14 50.

INDONESIAN Jika Anda tidak berbahasa Inggris dan memerlukan bantuan dari Child Support Agency, silakan menelepon Jasa Penerjemahan dan Juru Bahasa (TIS) pada nomor 13 14 50.

ITALIAN Se non parli inglese e ti serve assistenza da parte della Child Support Agency, chiama il Servizio traduzioni e interpreti (TIS) al 13 14 50.

KHMER បើលោកអ្នកមិននិយាយអង់គ្លេសទេ បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការជំនួយពី Child Support Agency សូមទូរស័ព្ទទៅអ្នកប្រគល់សេវាបកប្រែភាសា (TIS) តាមលេខ 13 14 50 ។

KOREAN 당신이 영어를 못하고 Child Support Agency의 도움이 필요하시면 전화통역 서비스(TIS) 13 14 50 으로 전화하십시오.

MACEDONIAN Ако не зборувате англиски јазик и ви треба помош од Child Support Agency, телефонирајте во Службата за преведување и толкување (TIS) на 13 14 50.

MALTESE Jekk inti ma titkellimx bi-Ingliż, u trid għajnjuna miċ-Child Support Agency, cempel lis-Servizz ta' Interpreti bit-Telefon (TIS) fuq 13 14 50.

POLISH Jeśli nie mówisz po angielsku a potrzebujesz pomocy Child Support Agency, zadzwoń do Biura Tłumaczy (TIS) pod numer 13 14 50.

PORTUGUESE Se não fala inglês e precisa da ajuda da Child Support Agency, ligue para o Serviço de Tradutores e Intérpretes (TIS) no 13 14 50.

RUSSIAN Если вы не говорите по-английски и нуждаетесь в помощи Child Support Agency, звоните в Службу устного и письменного перевода (TIS) по телефону 13 14 50.

SERBIAN Ако не говорите енглески и треба вам помоћ од Child Support Agency назовите Службу преводилаца и тумача (TIS) на 13 14 50.

SPANISH Si no habla inglés y desea ayuda de Child Support Agency, llame al Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación (TIS) al 13 14 50.

TURKISH Eğer Child Support Agency'den yardım istiyorsanız ve İngilizce konuşamıyorsanız 13 14 50'den Yazılı ve Sözlü Tercümanlık Servisi'ni (TIS) arayınız.

VIETNAMESE Nếu không nói được tiếng Anh, mà cần Child Support Agency giúp, xin gọi điện thoại cho Dịch Vụ Thông Phiên Dịch (TIS), số 13 14 50.