

How to Calculate Child Support in Minnesota with *"Income Shares"*

In cases of **divorce** <u>with</u> children, the judge <u>must</u> make orders about child support. The formula for setting child support under Minnesota law is called *Income Shares*. The State created an online child support calculator to do the math.

BEFORE returning to I-CANI to create your final divorce papers, calculate your child support by following the steps below. Print your "**Worksheets**" from the online calculator showing the child support amounts.

<u>Key Terms</u>

- The legal definition of "child support" has three (3) parts:
 - 1. **basic support** is for housing, food, clothing, transportation, education and other living expenses of the child.
 - 2. **medical support** is for health insurance and other medical/dental costs.
 - 3. child care support is for child care costs when parents go to work or school.
- "Joint child" is a dependent legal child of both husband and wife.
- "Non-joint child" is a dependent legal child of one, but not both spouses. NOTE: A stepparent is not considered the "legal" parent of his/her step-child, unless the step-parent legally adopted the child.

Important Things to Know:

- For more complete information read the child support law in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 518A, available online at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=518A.
- The Income Shares formula uses the gross income of BOTH parents in figuring the amount of child support. Generally, the parent with whom the child lives most of the time gets financial support from the other parent.
- The amount of court-ordered parenting time (visitation) is considered in calculating the amount of "basic support." If a parent has the child between 10% and 45% of the time, the parent gets a 12% adjustment (reduction) in child support owed. If the parenting time is less than 10%, there is no adjustment to child support. Percentage of time is generally calculated by counting the number of overnights the child spends with the parent in a year. 10% time =36 overnights or less. 10 to 45% time = 37 to 171 overnights.
- The law presumes that both parents can or should work. "Potential income" can be assigned to a parent who is unemployed or underemployed, but is capable of working more.
- By law, if the parties do not give specific details about their income, the court will set child support based on other available evidence, including past work experience. Or, support can be ordered using the current legal minimum wage or a minimum amount stated in the law.
- I-CAN! asks if you are entering the "guidelines amount" for child support. The online calculator gives you the "guidelines amount." If you are asking the court to order an amount that is higher or lower than the amount in the online child support calculator, then you must explain why your amount is different. You should give the court a legal reason for that request.

Step 1: Enter your data into the Child Support Calculator

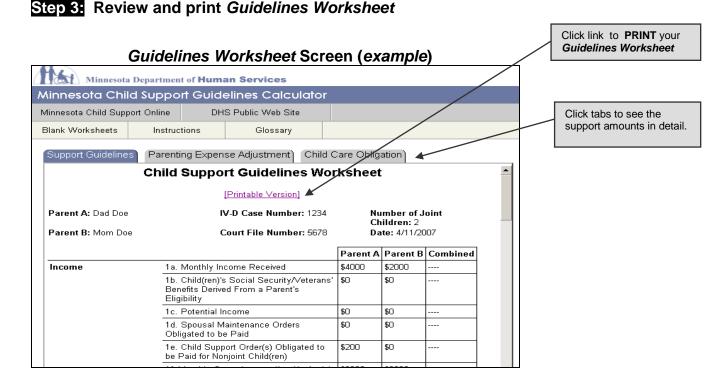
To figure out the amount of **"basic support," "child care support,"** and **"medical support"** owed by each parent, use the online **Child Support Calculator** on the MN Dept. of Human Service's website.

Website: <u>http://childsupportcalculator.dhs.state.mn.us</u>

Online Child Support Calculator (example)					
Minnesota Department of Human Services	minnesota north star) 🛎				
Minnesota Child Support Guidelines Calculator					
Minnesota Child Support Online DHS Public Web Site					
Blank Worksheets Instructions	Click the Instructions button to see how to use the online calculator.				
Minnesota Child Support Guidelines Calcul	ator				
1. What is Parent A's name? Dad Doe	Links tell you what each term means.				
2. What is Parent B's name? Mom Doe	IMPORTANT: Click the links for Parent A and				
3. What is the <u>IV-D case</u> number? 1234	Parent B and read the definitions carefully.				
4. What is the <u>court file</u> number? 5678					
5. How many joint children are there? 2	Parents' monthly income , which should be the same amount as the "total monthly income" from Petition ¶21 and 25 or ¶ 2 of each parent's				
6. What is the monthly income received?	Parent A Parent B Financial Affidavit.				
	\$ 0 \$ 0				
8. What is the monthly amount the joint <u>child(ren)</u> receive in <u>benefits from Social</u> <u>Security or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) due to a parent's eligibility</u> ?	Spousal support, if any, should match amounts from Petition ¶21 and 25 or ¶ 5 of				
If the joint child(ren) receive Social Security or VA benefits due to Parent A's eligibility, is Parent B the <u>representative payee</u>?	each parent's <i>Financial Affidavit</i> .				
10. What is the monthly amount each parent is ordered to pay for <u>spousal</u> maintenance?					
11. What is the total amount each parent is ordered to pay for monthly <u>child support</u> for nonjoint <u>child(ren)</u> ?	Support for non-joint children should match				
12. What is the number of <u>nonjoint child(ren)</u> living in the home?	the amounts from Petition ¶21 and 25 or ¶ 6 of				
13. What is the monthly cost of <u>health care coverage</u> for the <u>joint child(ren)</u> ?	the Financial Affidavits.				
 What is the monthly cost of <u>dental coverage</u> for the joint child(ren) if separate from <u>health care coverage</u>? 					
15. What <u>percentage of parenting time</u> was awarded to <u>Parent A</u> by the court?	tween 10% and 45%				
16. Number of joint child(ren) receiving child care?	Tween 10% and 45% Petition ¶ 14 and 15 or ¶4 of the parent's Financial Affidavit.				
17. How much are the total monthly <u>child care costs?</u> \$ 16					
	rrent B				
19. Does either parent receive child care assistance for the joint children?	Child Care Costs Enter the monthly cost of health insurance in				
20. Does <u>Parent B</u> receive <u>Medical Assistance</u> or <u>MinnesotaCare</u> for the joint child (ren)?	Yes © No the column of the Parent who pays the insurance for the joint children.				
Important Disclaimer: The child support guidelines worksheet, instructions and calculat					
and educational use only and are not a guarantee of the amount of child support the cou results obtained are only as accurate as the information used. Other factors may affect th order. The Court has the final authority to determine the amount of the child support orde	e actual child support				
Calculate Reset	Financial Affidavit.				
	Click "Calculate" to get child support amounts and be able to print Guidelines Worksheet.				

Step 2: Calculate your child support

After entering your information, click the "Calculate" button at the bottom of the screen. This will take you to a "Worksheet" screen that shows the amount of support each parent must contribute for joint children. **IMPORTANT! Print the** *Guidelines Worksheet* so you can attach it to your court papers. Also, if you need to change something, you have to start over at the beginning and enter everything again, so it helps to know what you entered before. If you need to start over, you have to go back to the homepage for the calculator at http://childsupportcalculator.dhs.state.mn.us.



Step 4: Enter child support amounts into I-CAN!, or hand-write them on your court papers

Enter the amounts for child support into I-CAN! at the screens that ask you for this information. I-CAN! asks what the amount is that each parent should pay for:

- **basic support** (costs for a child's housing, food, clothing, transportation, and education costs, and other expenses to care for the child)
- medical support (health insurance and other medical/dental costs)
- child care support (child care costs when parents go to work or school)
- % of unreimbursed medical and dental costs for the joint children

OR

Hand-write the child support amounts from your "**Worksheet**" on your court papers at **paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 9** of the "**Conclusions of Law**" section (in the *Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order for Judgment, Judgment and Decree* if you have an agreement with your spouse, or the *Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Judgment and Decree* form if your spouse did not respond.)

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Step 5: Attach the calculator guidelines *Worksheet* to your court papers

You **must** attach a copy of your calculator guidelines **Worksheet** to your final divorce papers, which could be the *Stipulated Findings of Fact and Decree* or the *Findings of Fact and Decree* document.

	Printed Guidelines Worksheet					
Parent A: Dad Doe Parent B: Mom Doe	IV-D Case Number: 1234 Court File Number: 5678		Number of Joint Children: 2			
arent b. Morn Doe	Court File Number, 3070	Date: 4/11/2007				
		Parent A	Parent B	Combir	red	
Income	1a. Monthly Income Received	\$4000	\$2000			
	1b. Child(ren)'s Social Security/Veterans' Benefits Derived From a Parent's Eligibility	\$0	\$0			
	1c. Potential Income	\$0	\$0		"basic support" entered at ¶ 5	
	1d. Spousal Maintenance Orders Obligated to be Paid	\$200	\$0	/		
	1e. Child Support Order(s) Obligated to be Paid for Nonjoint Child(ren)	\$200	\$0	/L		
	1f. Monthly Gross Income (1a+1b+1c-1d-1e)	\$3600	\$2000	/		
24 3. 4. 5.	2a. Number of Nonjoint Child(ren) in the Home (Maximum number allowed is 2)	0	0	/		
	2b. Deduction for Nonjoint Child(ren) in the Home	\$0	\$0 /		"child care support" amount entered at ¶ 9	
	3. Parental Income for Determining Child Support (PICS)	\$3600	\$2000	\$5600		
	4. Percentage Share of Combined PICS	64%	36%	/		
	5. Combined Basic Support Obligation		/	\$1346		
	6. Pro Rata Basic Support Obligation	\$861	\top	r		
lasic Child Support Ibligation	7. Basic Support Obligation After Parenting Expense Adjustment	\$758			medical care amount entered at ¶ 6(a) or (b)	
Child Care Obligation	8. Child Care Support Obligation for Joint Child(ren)	\$868		/		
Medical Support Obligation	9a. Monthly Cost of Health Care Coverage for Joint Child(ren)	\$150	\$0	/		
	9b. Pro Rata Share of Health Care Coverage Costs	\$96	\$54	r		
Appropriate Coverage Available	9c. Contribution to Health Care Coverage		\$54		dental care amount entered at ¶ 6(a) or (b)	
	9d. Monthly Cost of Dental Coverage for Joint Child(ren)	\$0	80			
	9e. Pro Rata Share of Dental Coverage Costs	\$0	\$0			
	9f. Contribution to Dental Coverage			r		
	9g. Medical Support Obligation-Appropriate Coverage Available		\$54		health care amount IF party gets public Medical Assistance, entered at ¶ 6(c)	
No Appropriate	10. Medical Support Obligation for Public Coverage					
nsurance Available				\square		
Uninsured/Unreimbursed Expenses	d 11. Share of Uninsured and/or Unreimbursed Medical Expenses	64%	36%	L	,	
	12. Net Child Support Obligation	\$1626	\$54	[0/ of uproimburg ad	
enefits Adjustment	Child(ren)'s Social Security/Veterans' Benefits Derived from Parent's Eligibility				% of unreimbursed costs entered in ¶ 7(a)	
Computing a Final Obligation	14. Total Child Support Obligation	\$1626	\$54	L		
	15a. Monthly Gross Income	\$3600	\$2000			
Ability to Pay Calculation	15b. Income Available for Support	\$2579	\$979			
	16. Monthly Child Support Obligation - No Adjustment Necessary	\$1626	\$54		•	

Printed Guidelines Worksheet (example)