

## **Glossary of Child Support Terms**

**Paternity Affidavit** — Legal document a man can sign to acknowledge paternity

**Administrative Hearing** — Hearing conducted at the Butler County CSEA by an administrative hearing officer. The hearing officer is an attorney working for the Butler County CSEA who reviews cases and issues independent decisions. The agency holds administrative hearings regarding paternity, child support, medical insurance, modification of support, and mistake of fact hearings.

**Administrative review of an existing child support order** — Review conducted by the CSEA to determine if the agency can modify a child support order. Parties have the right to a modification hearing if they disagree with the results of the review. If a party still disagrees, that party may request a judicial hearing.

**Alleged Father** — Man the custodial parent is naming as the father

**Arrearage** — Unpaid child support

**Bench Warrant** — Warrant for arrest issued by the Court of Domestic Relations for failure to appear

**Buckle Swab Test** — Recognized form of genetic testing used to establish paternity

**Central Paternity Registry** — Data registry located in Columbus for children born out-of-wedlock

**Child Support Payment Central (CSPC)** — Ohio's centralized system for collecting and disbursing child support payments

**Criminal Non-Support** — The court can charge a payer with criminal non-support if they willfully fail to pay their court-ordered support. The Prosecuting Attorney handles these cases.

**Custody** — A legal determination, either by statute or by court order, as to what individual has legal control over the child. Since 1998, Ohio law presumes that an unmarried mother is the legal custodian of the child absent any order to the contrary. However, the parents may contest this. The CSEA does not involve itself with custody issues.

**Default** — Failing to make monthly payments in a timely fashion

**Delinquent Support** — Support account that is in arrears, i.e., the agency's records reflect that the amount paid is less than the amount owed. If an account is one month or more in arrears, the CSEA may take enforcement action.

**Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** — Process that directly deposits funds into a bank account

**Emancipation** — Act of removing a child from a support order because that child has become an adult and is no longer a full-time high school student, has married, joined the armed services or for other reasons outlined by statute.

**Enforcement** — Efforts taken to see that a parent follows their support and/or health insurance orders

**Financial Institution Withholding** — A procedure set up by the payer authorizing the CSEA to withdraw funds on a regular basis from a bank or financial institution. The withdrawal is made via an administrative or judicial order to the bank or institution.

**Genetic tests** — Analysis of blood, tissue, and/or DNA of the mother, child and alleged father(s) to prove or disprove paternity. Butler County CSEA generally uses the buccal swab method for collecting samples. The buccal swab, which obtains samples from the inner cheek of the parties, is painless, quick, and reliable.

**Jurisdiction** — Legal authority a court has over particular persons or certain types of cases in a defined geographical area

**Legal Father** — Man recognized by law as a child's male parent

**Lien** — Legal claim upon property to prevent sale or transfer until a debt is satisfied

**Medical Support** — Legal order to provide medical insurance for a child

**Mistake of Fact Hearing** — Administrative hearing available to the parties if they disagree with certain decisions and/or recommendations of the CSEA

**Obligee (custodial parent)** — Parent or custodian with whom the child resides. This party does not have to be the actual biological parent of the child.

**Obligor (non-custodial parent)** — Parent or parents who do not live with the child (ren), but who have a duty of financial support for the child (ren).

**Ohio Works First (OWF)** — Public assistance (monthly cash payments for families with children)

**Paternity Establishment** — Administrative or judicial establishment of a party as the biological father of a child

**Payee** — Party entitled to receive child support payments

**Payer** — Party ordered to pay child support

**Processing charge** — Amount that the CSEA is required to charge on every dollar it collects or is required to collect. The processing charge compensates the CSEA for the cost of processing the money it collects. Formally referred to as poundage, it is 2 percent of the monthly obligation.

**Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS)** — Statewide computer system that manages all child support cases in the state of Ohio

**SETS Case Number** — 10 digit child support identification number. All Ohio SETS case numbers begin with "7."

**Support Order** — Administrative or judicial order for the payer to pay the payee for the care and support of the child (ren) at issue

**URESA** (Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act) — Federal law that provides a mechanism for establishing and enforcing child support orders and paternity when parents live in different states or countries.

**Wage Withholding** — Procedure by which the payer of an obligor deducts support pursuant to an order from the CSEA or court.