

Commonly Asked Questions by Petitioner:

1. Who are the petitioner and the respondent?

The court file will list the petitioner as the person who filed the case and the respondent as the person whom the case was filed against. The Child Support records will have the petitioner as the obligee, or person who is receiving the child support payments, and the respondent as the obligor, or the person who is ordered to pay the child support.

2. I am not receiving my child support and my case is a private case (not currently being enforced by the Department of Revenue (DOR)). What are my options?

If a case is delinquent at least 15 days and more than one assessment, the Clerk will send a delinquency notice. The respondent will be given fifteen (15) to either (a) pay the delinquent amount or (b) file a "Motion Contesting Delinquency". If neither is done, a judgment lien will be filed and the case will begin to accrue interest on any balance of arrears. Clerk's delinquencies are issued on both private (non-DOR) cases and cases that are being enforced by DOR.

On a private case the petitioner may also submit a written request for the Clerk to suspend the respondent's driver's license once the case has fallen into delinquency. Our office will verify that the case is in a delinquent status and send a Notice of Intent to Suspend to the respondent. The respondent may respond by filing a "Motion Contesting Intent to Suspend", by paying delinquent amount given on the Notice, or by entering into and filing a written agreement with the petitioner to make payments. Support records would not reflect agreements between the parties unless a court order adopts the agreement, but the DL suspension process would be stopped.

The petitioner may also file a "Motion for Civil Contempt/Enforcement", contact an attorney for assistance, or contact DOR for enforcement assistance.

3. What is a lien; also known as a Judgment by Operation of Law?

A judgment lien, or "Judgment by Operation of Law", is issued when a delinquency notice has been sent and has expired without being responded to. The judgment amount is equal to the unpaid delinquency amount and once filed, interest accrues any balance of arrears. The interest rate is determined by the state each year the rate remains the same throughout the duration of the lien. The interest is calculated on the arrears balance until the account balance is zero. The Clerk will continue to accept payments until all arrears, interest and fees have been collected. The Clerk by statute only mails the delinquency notice to the most current address provided in the court record.

4. Who do I notify when my home or employer's address changes?

You should file a written notice of any address changes with the Clerk. The address update should be sent to: Clerk of the Circuit Court, Civil Court Records, ATTN: Support Section, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, FL 33756. If yours is a DOR case a copy will be forwarded to the DOR office but you may also wish to contact them directly.

5. How do I obtain copies of support records from the court?

You may obtain copies of records by contacting the Clerk of the Court. Copies of court records (including payment histories) are \$1.00 per page. A "Certificate of Arrears" is \$7.00.

6. Where can I locate forms to request a modification of my support and is there a fee to file the paperwork?

You may obtain a modification packet at any of the Clerk's offices for a fee. You can also visit www.jud6.org website and the www.flcourts.org website to obtain the instructions and forms needed. (Also link from www.mypinellasclerk.org/helpful tools, questions/answers at site). Filing fees may be determined by visiting the Clerk's website at www.pinellasclerk.org under "Find a Service".

7. How do I change my direct deposit?

For private cases you can make changes by completing a direct deposit request form, which can be found at www.mypinellasclerk.org under "Find a Service". If your case is represented by DOR, you will need to contact their office.

Commonly Asked Questions by Respondent:

1. How can I have my driver's license reinstated after it was suspended for not paying support?

In order for the Clerk to provide you with an Affidavit to Reinstate License on a Non-DOR case you would need to pay the delinquent amount, including any fees outstanding. An Affidavit to Reinstate will be provided once full payment is received.

2. How do I get credit for support payments that I made directly to the petitioner that are not reflected on the support record?

The Clerk does not credit accounts for direct payments without a court order. You may file a "Motion for Credit of Direct Payments" along with an unsigned order with the Clerk's Office for judicial review. Generic motion and order forms can be found at www.pinellasclerk.org under "Forms" or in one of our Civil locations. You should attach any proof of direct payments or an affidavit from the petitioner specifying the payment amounts and dates for the court to review. If your case is enforced by DOR you may wish to contact their office first.

3. I made a payment to the State Disbursement Unit (SDU) but it is not reflected in my payment history?

If you provide the Clerk with the payment date, check number and amount of payment, the Clerk may contact the State Disbursement Unit to assist in locating the payment.

For information regarding payment received and disbursed by the SDU, call 850-205-8227. You may also view the last five payments received and disbursed by the SDU by visiting www.myfloridacounty.com.

4. When can I stop paying support?

When a case is established, the age of emancipation (18) is entered into the system, unless the court order indicates otherwise. If the order states child support should continue if the child is 18 but still attending school, you must notify the Clerk's Office with proof from the school that the child is 18 but still attending high school with the anticipated date of graduation.

If there is more than one child subject to the support order and the order does not specify any reduction in the support amount to be paid as each child ages your support obligation will continue at the full amount until the youngest child is emancipated. To change this you would need to begin the modification process.

If there are arrears, interest or fees due, the Clerk will not send a notice to stop support deductions until all have been paid.

5. When my support ends, is my employer automatically notified?

Yes, the Clerk will send notice to an employer to stop deductions if all arrears, interest and fees have been paid.

6. I just found out that I have a judgment lien against me that has been in place for many years. Why didn't someone tell me about this lien? How do I satisfy the lien?

The clerk is only required to send a Notice of Delinquency to the last known address on record. If there has been no response the judgment is filed and interest accrues. A lien payoff may be requested to provide the respondent the total amount owed to satisfy the judgment or a court

order directing us to satisfy the judgment. This is why it is important that you inform the Clerk of any address changes as soon as they occur.

7. Why can't I make my regular child support payment to the Clerk's Office?

The State Disbursement Unit was established by state statute for the processing of support payments. Pinellas County Clerk's Office has contracted with the SDU to process our regular payments.

Mail a check or money order made payable to Florida SDU, PO Box 8500, Tallahassee, FL 32314-8500

However, the Clerk will accept the following payments; purge payment, writs of bodily attachments, delinquency payments that you have notified by our office of, to clear a driver's license suspension resulting from outstanding support. In most of these cases you must provide the documentation that instructs you to make your payment with the Clerk. If a deadline was specified and has passed additional fees or judicial action may be required.

10. What information do I need to provide on the check or money order when mailing it to the SDU?

First, verify the mailing address, which should be PO Box 8500, Tallahassee, FL 32314-8500 and the check or money order should be made payable to Florida SDU. You need to include a minimum of two identifiers on the payment:

1. Complete Case number, Year-assigned number-alpha-county EX(01-0003456-CA-29),
2. Obligor social security number,
3. Full name of Obligor or Non Custodial Parent, and/or
4. CSE number – 10 digit IVD number EX(2538881497) – DOR cases only

11. Can I pay my child support using a credit card?

Yes. To pay your Florida child support obligation with a major credit card, please visit www.myfloridacounty.com. A service charge of 3.5% is applied in addition to other fees associated with the obligation.

12. Is there any way I can pay my child support to the SDU using cash?

Yes. You may visit any AMSCOT, Money Gram, or Western Union location in Florida and pay your child support obligation with cash. All you need is your complete case number, year-assigned number-alpha-county (e.g., 01-0003456-CA-29). Note, the services fees are as follows:

AMSCOT:	\$5.00
MoneyGram:	\$5.95
Western Union:	\$4.95