

## Locations of Legal Aid Bureau Offices

### Baltimore Offices

#### Baltimore City

500 East Lexington Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 951-7777  
(800) 896-4213  
(800) 458-5340 TTY

#### Cherry Hill

Cherry Hill Neighborhood Ctr.  
606 Cherry Hill Road  
Baltimore, MD 21225  
(410) 355-4223

### Other Maryland Offices

#### Anne Arundel County

229 Hanover Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(800) 666-8330

#### Baltimore County

29 W. Susquehanna Ave.  
Suite 305  
Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 296-6705  
(800) 367-7563

#### Lower Eastern Shore

*Wicomico, Dorchester, Worcester, Somerset*  
111 High Street  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
(800) 444-4099

#### Metropolitan Maryland *Prince George's*

6811 Kenilworth Avenue  
Calvert Bldg., Suite 500  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
(888) 215-5316

#### Montgomery

14015 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
(301) 879-8752

#### Howard

3451 Court House Dr, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 480-1057

#### Midwestern Maryland

*Frederick, Carroll & Washington*  
203A Broadway  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(800) 679-8813  
(800) 763-4152 TTY

TTY available in all offices

#### Northeastern Maryland

*Harford, Cecil*  
5 North Main St, Suite 200  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
(800) 444-9529

#### Southern Maryland

*Charles, St. Mary's, Calvert*  
15364 Prince Frederick Road  
Hughesville, MD 20637  
(301) 932-6661 Charles  
(301) 884-5935 St. Mary's  
(410) 535-3278 Calvert  
(301) 843-5850 D.C.

#### Upper Eastern Shore

*Queen Anne's, Caroline, Kent, Talbot*  
Tred Avon Square, Suite 3  
210 Marlboro Road  
Easton, MD 21601  
(800) 477-2543

#### Western Maryland

*Allegany, Garrett*  
110 Greene Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
(301) 777-7474 Allegany  
(301) 334-8832 Garrett

#### Statewide

#### Nursing Home & Assisted Living Programs

(800) 367-7563

#### Farm Worker Program

(800) 444-4099

#### Maryland Senior Legal Hotline

(800) 999-8904

#### Housing Preservation Program

(800) 999-8904

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT: Modifications

*Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.*

*Maryland*

**(410) 951-7777**

**(800) 896-4213**

**(800) 458-5340 TTY**

**<http://www.mdlab.org>**



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# Child Support Modifications

You can change the amount of child support ordered by a court if you think it is incorrect. For example, the income of either parent may have changed, you may have lost your job or become disabled, or you may become incarcerated and unable to pay.

## How to Seek Modification of Your Child Support Order

**Either parent can, at any time, file a motion to modify an existing child support order.** You should file the motion in the court which issued the child support order. For Baltimore City cases, motions can be filed in the Clerk's office, Paternity Division (Room 109, Courthouse East (410) 333-3738. To be successful in getting a child support order changed, you must show that a "material change in circumstances" has occurred since the most recent order. Examples of changes can include such things as change in custody, losing your job, having your income reduced, becoming disabled, or becoming incarcerated.

**Also, either parent has the right to request the child support enforcement office to conduct a review** of the child support order. Your request for a review and modification should be in writing. Keep a copy for yourself as proof that you made the request. You should explain why you are requesting the review, sign and date it, and include your child support case number and other identifying information on the request. *Be sure to follow up with the child support office.*

## Where to Get Assistance Filing Court Documents

The Pro Se office, located at 111 N. Calvert St. in Room 114 (Courthouse East) M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in Baltimore City, provides forms and help filing court documents. Each county has its own Pro Se office usually located in the local Circuit Court building.

## Generally, You Cannot Change Past Owed Child Support

It is important to understand that the law allows a change to your child support obligation only from the date you **file** a motion to modify child support. You generally cannot go back and change past amounts due even if you can show that you could not pay the past support for good reasons; however, you can ask a court for *credit* for the time period the child(ren) was living with you. Therefore, **if changes occur, it is important that you file your request to modify child support right away.**

## If You Are in Jail or Prison

If you go to jail or prison and you have an existing child support obligation, the child support you owe will continue to add up while you are in jail. **To stop or reduce the child support while you are in jail, you must file a Motion to Modify Child Support.** For assistance with filing your petition, you can contact Alternative Directions at 2505 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. (410) 889-5072. You will likely not be able to go back and change past amounts of child support owed once you get out of jail.

## When There's Been A Change In Custody

If the child that you are currently paying support for is physically residing with you. You must file a **Petition to Modify Child Support**, indicating the change in custody. Informing the Office of Child Support **will not stop** payments. For assistance contact the *Pro Se office*

The Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., established in 1911, provides free civil legal services to eligible low-income people throughout Maryland. Among its services, Legal Aid provides outreach and limited representation to non-custodial parents where child support issues cause barriers to employment.

Remember: The law often changes. Each case is different. This pamphlet is meant to give you general information and not to give you specific legal advice.