

## What happens if I don't pay my child support?

We strongly encourage you to make every attempt to pay your support. You must be honest and open during all proceedings, giving an accurate account of your financial situation will ensure that your order is fair and coincides with your available income. The SRMT CSEU has many enforcement options available to them from, revocation of Tribal Licenses to obtaining assistance from NYS to revoke NYS Drivers licenses.

## What happens when a non-custodial parent does not have any means to make a monetary payment of support?

Tribal Child Support agencies can offer what is called Non-Cash support (In-Kind). Currently only Tribes are allowed to offer this to clients who work with Tribal Child Support Programs. Non-cash support means child support provided to a family in the nature of goods and/or services rather than in cash when there is no viable income to fulfill a financial obligation. Non-cash support directly contributes to the needs of a child. Non-cash support may include services such as making repairs to automobiles or a home, the clearing or upkeep of property, providing a means for travel, providing needed resources for a child's participation in tribal customs and practices, or other goods or services that

contribute to the needs of a child, and can be reasonably assigned a cash value. The only way that non-cash support can be considered is if both mom and dad agree to it. If the custodial parent declines this option then it will not be allowed. The SRMT CSEU will assign a dollar value to all services used for Non-Cash Support.

## Will my child support obligation go away?

The answer is NO! If you don't pay your child support, every month it is not paid it accumulates. This is called arrears and it will follow you even after your children are adults.



## Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Support Enforcement Unit and speak with a staff member who can assist you with any questions you may have. The number is 518-358-2272. We are located at 412 State Route 37 Akwesasne, NY 13655.

## What Every Parent Needs to Know About

# CHILD SUPPORT



*Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Child Support Enforcement Unit*

## What is Child Support?

Child Support is a court ordered obligation for you to support your child's needs to help them grow up healthy. You may have to provide health insurance coverage for your child to help ensure your child has access to medical care. In addition, the court may add an amount to cover child care or educational expenses

## What if I have a current Child Support Case in St. Lawrence or Franklin County?

If you currently have a child support case with one of the two counties, and you do not have an assignment to that case (reimbursement of TAN-F or Medicaid) then you can request a transfer of your case to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Support Enforcement Unit. Please call the CSEU and we can give you a transfer request form you can submit. Please note, if there is any money owed to the State of New York your case will most likely not be transferred. If you have any arrears your case will not be closed and transferred. Currently the SRMT does not have any agreements regarding the transfer of child support cases with New York State. We will be working diligently to ensure the best possible outcome when developing any and all Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with New York State.

## Why should I pay my child support?

Parents have a duty to support their children; raising a child is expensive and both parents should share in paying for things that the child may need- both now, and in the future. Supporting your child is an important part of being a parent. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe believes that parents have a duty to care for their children and this duty applies to all parents whose parental rights have not been terminated. This duty includes providing love, guidance, education, providing a safe and healthy environment, participation in tribal culture, and to provide financial support.



## What if my child does not live with me?

Even if you do not live with your child, your child still needs you in their life. Do not let issues you may have with the custodial parent stop you from paying your child support. Your child needs your support and love whether or not you and the custodial parent get along.

## Is there a connection between payment of child support and visitation?

No. Paying child support and visitation are separate issues. You cannot stop paying child support because you are being denied visitation. If visitation is a problem, then you should file a petition for a visitation order or for enforcement of a visitation order. You must contact the Family Court where the original visitation order originated from or if the visitation agreement was informal you can file a new petition in your current County Family Court. Currently the Tribal Court does not preside over any child custody or visitation matters.

## What if I pay the custodial parent directly?

Your court order should state how payments are to be made. However, if you choose to pay the custodial parent directly, the SRMT CSEU cannot give you credit for those payments. To be safe, utilize the SRMT CSEU office so that there is a record of payment and you are given credit for making those payments.