

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- We can give you information and legal advice on what the law says about parents paying or receiving child maintenance or child support.
- We can give you information and legal advice about your rights and responsibilities under the Child Support Scheme.
- We can give you information and legal advice about how to have the maintenance or child support you receive or pay increased, decreased or discharged.
- We can assist you with preparing the relevant court documents and other applications you need in order to change the amount of maintenance you receive or pay or to change your child support assessment.
- We can speak to officers of the Child Support Agency on your behalf.
- We can prepare the appropriate court documents seeking orders about paternity.

All assistance given to clients is FREE

PENINSULA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.

HEAD OFFICE

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PH: (03) 9783-3600

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Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Branch Offices

Bentleigh

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Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am to 3pm

Cranbourne

Bella Centre
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Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

CHILD
SUPPORT
SERVICES

The Child Support Service of
Peninsula Community Legal Centre is funded by the
Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

CHILD SUPPORT SCHEME

The payment of child support is governed by legislation. There are now two different stages that apply to how child maintenance or child support is collected and assessed. They are commonly called Stage 1 and Stage 2. Our service assists both carer and non-carer parents who fall under either Stage 1 or 2.

Our Child Support Solicitors are located at our Head Office in Frankston.

Child Support Services



Telephone advice available Tuesdays between 1.30pm & 4.30pm on (03) 783-3600.



Drop-in session at 9.30am on Thursdays at our Head Office. No appointment necessary numbers are handed out and you will be seen in the order of the number received.



Appointments are available at our Head Office in Frankston.

STAGE 1

If you separated or had a child prior to the 1st October, 1989, you come under this stage.

The amount of child maintenance payable under this stage is stated in a Court Order obtained in either a local Magistrate's Court, Federal Magistrate's Court or Family Court of Australia. These orders are known as Child Maintenance Orders

To obtain an order for Child Maintenance, or to Vary or Discharge orders already made, it is necessary to make an application to one of the above Courts.

Our service will:

- Explain the procedure and the amount of Child Maintenance you are likely to receive or have to pay.
- Assist with negotiations with the other party in the hope agreement can be reached without the need to attend Court.
- Draw up Consent Orders if agreement is reached
- Help you complete, file and serve the Court documents required to obtain a maintenance order or to vary or discharge an existing court order or arrears.

STAGE 2

If you separated or had children born on or after the 1st October, 1989 you come under this stage.

The amount of Child Support payable under Stage 2 is calculated using a formula set out in the Child Support Assessment Act 1989 based upon both parent's taxable income.

Our service will:

- Explain the Child Support Scheme and the amount of child support you are likely to receive or pay.
- Assist in completing Child Support Agency forms.
- Provide advice about the liability to pay child support.
- Provide advice and assistance with preparing applications to change a child support assessment.
- Provide advice and assistance with Departure applications to the Federal Magistrates' Court of Australia.
- Liaise with the Child Support Agency on your behalf.
- Assist with drafting new Child Support Agreements.

As a mother you may be required to prove paternity of your child or children in order to obtain full benefits.

PATERNITY

Possible fathers may be requested to acknowledge parentage or to undergo DNA tests.

Our service will:

- Assist with either proving or denying paternity
- Assist with obtaining Statutory Declarations as to parentage