



Tips for Advocates: Child Support

Child Support

- To receive child support in Texas, custody & visitation must be established. In many cases there is a possibility that an abusive partner may be granted access to a child(ren) by a Judge.
- Once a child support order is rendered, regardless of if an abusive partner pays child support, the survivor is obligated to follow the custody and visitation order.
- Survivors may be legally required to appear in court on the court date.

Safety Issues with Child Support (OAG system)

- Certain types of public assistance require cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) child support process unless you are granted an exemption from this requirement. This means that if a survivor applies for certain benefits (i.e. TANF, Adult Medicaid etc.) an automatic child support case will be opened. Advocates can assist survivors in obtaining Good Cause, which would waive the child support requirement of the TANF and Medicaid programs.
- Survivors with safety concerns who would like to proceed with OAG child support may request their child support case be flagged with a Family Violence Indicator (FVI) which allows for the possibility of non-disclose options and routes the case to court instead of in-office negotiations.
- Check out TCFV's [Get Child Support Safely website](#) for in-depth information about Good Cause, the OAG child support process including FVI, and how survivors of family violence can pursue child support safely. www.getchildsupportsafely.org

Additional Topics and Resources

- The [Good Cause Recommendation](#) is documentation to request an exemption from the child support process. Contact TCFV for assistance completing the form.
- Contact [TCFV](#) to request a Get Child Support Advocate Toolkit. It provides information for advocates about the child support process, best practices in exploring safety risks associated with pursuing child support, and guidance on helping survivors consider and assert their needs to achieve a safe and workable child support order. Call: 512-794-1133
- Texas Attorney General houses the child support office. Check out their [FAQ on Information for Family Violence around Child Support](#).