

CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES 750 ILCS 5/505 (a)

(a) In a proceeding for dissolution of marriage... the court may order either or both parents owing a duty of support to a child of the marriage or civil union to pay an amount reasonable and necessary for support. The duty of support owed to a child includes the obligation to provide for the reasonable and necessary physical, mental and emotional health needs of the child. **For purposes of this Section, the term "child" shall include any child under age 18 and any child age 19 or younger who is still attending high school.** For purposes of this Section, the term "obligor" means the parent obligated to pay support to the other parent.

(1) Child support guidelines. The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall adopt rules establishing child support guidelines which include worksheets to aid in the calculation of the child support obligations and a schedule of basic child support obligations that reflects the percentage of combined net income that parents living in the same household in this State ordinarily spend on their child.

(1.5) Computation of basic child support obligation.

The court shall compute the basic child support obligation by taking the following steps:

(A) determine each parent's monthly net income;

(B) add the parents' monthly net incomes together to determine the combined monthly net income of the parents;

(C) select the corresponding appropriate amount from the [schedule](#) of basic child support obligations based on the parties' combined monthly net income and number of children of the parties; and

(D) calculate each parent's percentage share of the basic child support obligation.

Although a monetary obligation is computed for each parent as child support, the receiving parent's share is not payable to the other parent and is presumed to be spent directly on the child.

(2) Duty of support. The court shall determine child support in each case by applying the child support guidelines unless the court makes a finding that application of the guidelines would be inappropriate, after considering the best interests of the child and evidence which shows relevant factors including, but not limited to, one or more of the following:

(A) the financial resources and needs of the child;

(B) the financial resources and needs of the parents;

(C) the standard of living the child would have enjoyed had the marriage or civil union not been dissolved; and

(D) the physical and emotional condition of the child and his or her educational needs.

Child Support Guidelines Deviation Factors 750 ILCS 5/505 (a) (3.4)

The court may deviate from the child support guidelines if the application would be inequitable, unjust, or inappropriate. Any deviation from the guidelines shall be accompanied by written findings by the court specifying the reasons for the deviation and the presumed amount under the child support guideline.

without a deviation. These reasons may include:

- a) extraordinary medical expenditures necessary to preserve the life or health of a party or a child of either or both of the parties;
- b) additional expenses incurred for a child subject to the child support order who has special medical, physical, or developmental needs; and
- c) any other factor the court determines should be applied upon a finding that the application of the child support guidelines would be inappropriate, after considering the best interest of the child.

Extracurricular activities and school expenses 750 ILCS 5/505 (a) (3.6).

The court, in its discretion, in addition to the basic child support obligation, may order either or both parents owing a duty of support to the child to contribute to the reasonable school and extracurricular activity expenses incurred which are intended to enhance the educational, athletic, social, or cultural development of the child.

Child Care Expenses 750 ILCS 5/505 (a) (3.7)

The court may order either or both parents owing a duty of support to the child to contribute to the reasonable "Child care expenses" of the child, where "Child care expenses" means actual expenses reasonably necessary to enable a parent or non-parent custodian to be employed, to attend educational or vocational training programs to improve employment opportunities, or to search for employment. "Child care expenses" also includes deposits for securing placement in a child care program, the cost of before and after school care, and camps when school is not in session. A child's special needs shall be a consideration in determining reasonable child care expenses.

Health Care 750 ILCS 5/505 (a) (4)

A portion of the basic child support obligation is intended to cover basic ordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses. The court, in its discretion, in addition to the basic child support obligation, shall also provide for the child's current and future medical needs by ordering either or both parents to initiate health insurance coverage for the child through currently effective health insurance policies held by the parent or parents, purchase one or more or all health, dental, or vision insurance policies for the child, or provide for the child's current and future medical needs through some other manner.

The court, in its discretion, may order either or both parents to contribute to the reasonable health care needs of the child not covered by insurance, including, but not limited to, unreimbursed medical, dental, orthodontic, or vision expenses and any prescription medication for the child not covered under the child's health insurance.

Health Insurance 750 ILCS 5/505 (a) (4) (E)

After the health insurance premium for the child is added to the basic child support obligation and allocated between the parents in proportion to their respective incomes for child support purposes, if the obligor is paying the premium, the amount calculated for the obligee's share of the health insurance premium for the child shall be deducted from the obligor's share of the total child support obligation. If the obligee is paying for private health insurance for the child, the child support obligation shall be increased by the obligor's share of the premium payment. The obligor's and obligee's portion of health insurance costs shall appear in the support order.

College Education 750 ILCS 5/513 (a)

The court may order award sums of money out of the property and income of either or both parties or the estate

if a deceased parent, as equity may require, for the educational expenses of any child of the parties, which may include post-secondary education.