

## **CHILD SUPPORT**

**How much child support should I receive?** If you have a court order directing child support, you should receive the amount ordered. Each state has minimum child support guidelines. Typically, the custodial parent will receive between 17% and 23% of the non-custodial parent's net resources for one child and between 24% and 33% of the non-custodial parent's net resources for two children. In Texas, the percentages are 20% for one child, and 25% for two children. These percentages may be modified or reduced if the non-custodial parent is supporting additional children from a prior or subsequent relationship. If there is no court order, then any written support agreement signed by the parties will control. If there is no court order and no written support agreement, then the Army requires soldiers to support their families at the unadjusted Basic Allowance for Housing with dependants rate. See a legal assistance attorney for an exact calculation of an individual soldier's support obligation.

**How do I get child support enforced in Texas?** Texas has a division of the Attorney General's Office that is specifically focused on child support enforcement. El Paso has three field offices, whose addresses are listed on the Texas Attorney General's website here: <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/cs/fieldoffices.php>.

**Can the Army deduct money from a soldier's pay for child support?** The Army does not have any legal authority to deduct money from a soldier's pay without his consent. However, a civilian court can order a garnishment or involuntary allotment. Additionally, commanders may order soldiers to pay support obligations under AR 608-99.

**What can the Fort Bliss Legal Assistance Office do for me?** The Legal Assistance Office provides counsel on your support obligations or the obligations of your spouse. If your spouse is a military member and has not been paying support, a Legal Assistance Attorney can write his commander and request that he or she take action to enforce the court order or Army regulation. Additionally, the office can refer you to a civilian attorney to help you in the Texas Court System. Legal Assistance Attorneys cannot, however, represent you in court.

If you have questions, contact the Fort Bliss Legal Assistance Office at (915) 568-7141/7150 for an appointment to speak with an attorney.