

Fathers Forward

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Because Fathers Matter: Understanding Child Support

For your children to grow and develop properly, they need love and support from both parents. Your child needs attention, care, and guidance from Mom and Dad. The fact is your children are counting on you no matter what your family situation may be.

A critical component of your relationship with your children is financial support. Financial support provides for life basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, and additionally provides for expanded activities like piano lessons, scouting, and various recreational activities.

The money a parent provides is called “child support”. It is the ongoing obligation for a periodic payment made by a non-custodial parent to a custodial parent, caregiver or guardian, for the care and support of children of a relationship or marriage that has been terminated. Child support is often arranged as part of a divorce, marital separation, dissolution, annulment, determination of parentage or dissolution of a civil union and may supplement alimony (spousal support) arrangements.

Child support is based on the policy that parents are obligated to pay for the support of their children, even when the children are not

living with both biological parents. Though courts typically permit visitation rights to non-custodial parents, in such separations one parent is often awarded custody and the role of primary caregiver. In such cases, the other parent still remains obligated to pay a proportion of the costs involved in raising the child. Child support may also be ordered to be paid by one parent to another when both parents are custodial parents and they share the child raising responsibilities. In rare cases, a parent with sole custody of his or her children may be ordered to pay child support to the noncustodial parent to support the children while they are in the care of that parent.

Usually the child support dollar amounts are based on the income of both parents, the number of children, the expenses of the custodial parent, and any special needs of the child. In Alabama the amount is determined by a formula which factors in all these figures. It may also include health plan coverage, school tuition or other expenses, and may be reduced during periods of extended visitation such as summer vacations. Child support generally continues until the child reaches 18 years, graduates from high school, is emancipated (no longer lives with either parent), or, in some cases, for an extended period such as college attendance.



In Elmore County

- 33% of births are to unwed mothers.*
- 8.7 % divorce rate.*
- 12.5 % of people live below the poverty line.*

*Statistics as reported by the 2006 ADPH, and AUM Center for Demographics Alabama Health Data Sheet.

Cost of Raising A Child

So what does it cost to raise a child today? According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion 2000 Annual Report, a single parent house with an annual income under \$36,000, can raise a child for \$109,350.00. So what does that buy for our children? Estimated cost are listed :

Housing	\$42,180.00
Food	\$22,830.00
Clothing	\$9,570.00
Health	\$6,540.00
Childcare/	
Education	\$8,580.00
Miscellaneous	\$11,880.00
Total	\$109,350.00



Fathers Forward

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Fathers Forward
is a project of the
Alabama Parent
Education Center

Information for Fathers

www.alabamaparentcenter.com

Provides a variety of information on parenting, involvement in education, and general information useful for parents.

www.fatherhood.org

National Fatherhood Initiative provides information for fathers, including resources, tips, statistics, and links to many national organizations working with fathers.

www.alllaw.com/calculators/Childsupport/alabama

Child Support calculator provides an approximation of child support payment based on your inputs.

www.dhr.state.al.us/page.asp?pageid=288

A guide to collection and distribution of Child Support Payment and Alabama Child Support Services.



Dad Development Opportunities October 2007

Dad Development Session

Where: 10520 U.S. Highway 231 Wetumpka, AL 36092

When: 10/9/07 - 10/11/07 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Cost: Free Pre-registration required 334-567-2252

Dad Development Session

Where: 10520 U.S. Highway 231 Wetumpka, AL 36092

When: 10/23/07 - 10/25/07 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Cost: Free Pre-registration required 334-567-2252

24/7 Dad Parenting Sessions

Where: St. James Family Worship 1005 Nobles Rd. Wetumpka AL

When: 10/2/07 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Cost: Free Pre-registration required 334-567-2252

This program is funded through a partnership between DHR and Children's Trust Fund of Alabama.

