

About the Veteran's Project at Levitt & Quinn

The Veteran's Project allows Levitt and Quinn to provide legal assistance for child support and other family law issues such as custody, visitation, and divorce. Legal services range from advice and counsel to paperwork preparation to representation in court.

Questions about your child support payments?

www.childsup-connect.ca.gov

Call the toll-free automated phone system to contact CSSD during business hours or access your account information 24 hours a day at (866) 901-3212. REQUEST A COPY of your case file.

Contact Levitt & Quinn:

lqfellow@levittquinn.org
(213) 482-1800, ext. 303

About Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center

The mission of Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center is to provide affordable legal representation in family law matters to low-income families of Los Angeles County to ensure stability for children and their families in the face of legal difficulties.

Levitt & Quinn provides family law legal services for poor and low-income families who are unable to obtain representation from other legal service providers or to afford a private attorney.

Attorneys provide legal representation at court hearings and trials, and legal advice and counsel in cases impacting the safety and well-being of children.

Levitt & Quinn's attorneys practice in key areas of family law including adoption, child support, spousal support, custody, visitation, domestic violence, marital dissolution, and paternity.



STANDING FOR JUSTICE SINCE 1981



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FAMILY LAW FOR VETERANS



LEARNING ABOUT YOUR CASE

FOR CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT:

- 1 Go to Room 314 on the 3rd Floor of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Central Civil West (CCW) courthouse, located at:
600 S. Commonwealth Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
- 2 Ask the clerk for a copy of your **entire** CHILD SUPPORT case.
- 3 You will be charged 50 cents per page unless you qualify for a fee waiver.
- 4 If your income is less than 125% of the poverty level, ask the clerk for a “Request to Waive Court Fees” form. If you qualify for a fee waiver, you will not have to pay any fees for the copies. **Take a copy of your proof of income with you (i.e., check stubs or any benefits statements that you receive).**

FOR CURRENT CUSTODY AND DIVORCE:

- 1 Go to Room 112 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Stanley Mosk courthouse, located at:
111 North Hill St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

FOR OLD CHILD SUPPORT, CUSTODY, OR DIVORCE CASES:

- 1 If you have an old case (more than 5 years old) in LA County, get a copy from the Archives, located at:
222 North Hill St., Room 212
Los Angeles, CA 90012
- 2 You will need to take the elevator DOWN to the second floor. Exit and turn right. Then follow signs to Room 212.

**The information in this brochure is based off of California law (2014)

CUSTODY

- 1 There are two aspects to child custody:
 - a) **LEGAL custody** – which parent makes decisions regarding child’s mental and educational issues
 - b) **PHYSICAL custody** – which parent the child resides with
- 2 To get orders for custody: coming to an **agreement which is submitted to the Court or through mediation** is a great way to establish child custody arrangements. If you and the other party do not agree, you will need to ask the court to make orders.
- 3 **MILITARY SERVICE AND CHILD CUSTODY:** If you have prior custody and visitation court orders, absence due to military service should NOT be counted against you. **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.**

VISITATION

- 1 Visitation: the amount of time that each parent will spend with the child. Even if you may not be seeing your child, you may still be required to PAY child support.
- 2 If you live far away or do not have a driver’s license, **be creative with ways to stay in contact with your child(ren), such as Skype calls or phone calls.**
- 3 In domestic violence cases, visits may be ordered to be **supervised**. However, there are low-cost monitors available. In addition, just because visits are currently monitored **does not mean they will always be monitored.**

“America’s Veterans have served their country with the belief that democracy and freedom are ideals to be upheld around the world.”

~ John Doolittle

CHILD SUPPORT

- 1 Both parents are required to support their child(ren). Child support is to help cover the child’s basic living necessities.
There are two forms of child support:
 - a) Current support – the amount of money that an obligor has been ordered to pay each month.
 - b) Arrears – the amount of past due child support that has not been paid, plus 10% interest.

- 2 **Driver’s License:** a driver’s license can be suspended or revoked until past-due child support is paid. Once suspended, you generally must agree to a payment plan to receive your license back. If you miss a payment, they may re-suspend your license.

- 3 **Enforcement mechanisms:** Child Support Services has a number of other enforcement mechanisms, including credit reporting, property liens, income tax refund intercepts, passport denial, bank levies, disability/unemployment benefits intercepts, lottery intercepts and criminal prosecution.

Wage garnishment: Child Support Services can have money taken directly out of your paycheck. There are maximum limits on this amount; in CA it generally cannot exceed 50%.

- 4 **VA Benefits: is it income?** VA benefits can typically be counted as income, along with money from the GI Bill. However, VA benefits cannot be directly garnished. The exception is if you waive a portion of retirement in order to receive disability benefits.

- 5 **If one or both parents move out of state:**

Usually modification will need to be done in the location where the case started.

If both parents move to another state, the case may need to be transferred.

States are required to cooperate with each other to establish and enforce child support orders.