

Serial-Family Parent Worksheet to Estimate Support

Important to Know

1. The worksheet only offers an estimate of what your support might be.
2. The use of the Serial-Family parent formula is at the court's discretion.
 - A Serial-Family parent's available income for later child support orders may be reduced by that parent's earlier legal obligations (duty to support).
 - For the parent's first legal obligation (duty) to support a child, the court may use the paying parent's gross income or ability to earn.
 - Gross income is defined as all income and earnings from all sources. This income may or may not be taxable. Income can be in the form of money, property, or services.
 - Ability to earn considers the parent's job and wage history, health, education, and available job openings.
3. The available income for a newer legal obligation is the parent's income minus the obligations that came before.
4. If a serial-family parent has an existing Shared-Placement, a Split-Placement, or a combined Split-Placement & Shared-Placement case, the court may use the parent's estimated support for the total number of children in these placements under the non-prorated amounts under the Percentage Standard (see #6 below). In the existing case, the parent may be the parent paying support or receiving support. For example, if the parent has 4 children in a combined Split Placement & Shared-Placement case, multiply the parent's income by the full 31%.
5. The order of the legal obligation (duty to support) is based on when the support obligation began. The legal obligation may include a parent's current, intact family (the family the parent lives with and supports). A support obligation begins on the date when:
 - the child is born if the child was conceived or born during the parent's marriage.
 - the child is adopted into an intact family.
 - **legal fatherhood (paternity) is established**, or the child is adopted if the child was born outside of marriage. For the mother of a child born outside of marriage, the obligation (duty) to support begins at the child's birth.
6. The Percentage Standards are:
 - **17%** of gross or available income for 1 child
 - **25%** of gross or available income for 2 children
 - **29%** of gross or available income for 3 children
 - **31%** of gross or available income for 4 children
 - **34%** of gross or available income for 5 or more children

Please see [DCF 150](#), Section II, for more details about Serial-Family Parent Cases.

For more information about court orders and setting child support amounts, go to the [Wisconsin Child Support Program website](#).

Serial-Family Parent Worksheet

First Obligation	Line 1	Enter paying parent's monthly income	\$
	Line 2	Enter the percent based on the number of children in this set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 1 child, enter 17% • For 2 children, enter 25% • For 3 children, enter 29% • For 4 children, enter 31% • For 5 or more children, enter 34% 	X %
	Line 3	Multiply Line 1 by Line 2 This is the estimated support for this child or set of children	\$
Second Obligation	Line 4	Subtract Line 3 from Line 1. This is parent's available income for the second set of children	\$
	Line 5	Enter the percent based on the number of the children in the second set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 1 child, enter 17% • For 2 children, enter 25% • For 3 children, enter 29% • For 4 children, enter 31% • For 5 or more children, enter 34% 	X %
	Line 6	Multiply Line 4 by Line 5 This is the estimated support for this child or set of children If there are only 2 sets of children, stop here.	\$
Third Obligation	Line 7	Subtract Line 6 from Line 4. This is paying parent's available income for the third child or set of children.	\$
	Line 8	Enter the percent based on the number children in this set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 1 child, enter 17% • For 2 children, enter 25% • For 3 children, enter 29% • For 4 children, enter 31% • For 5 or more children, enter 34% 	X %
	Line 9	Multiply Line 7 by Line 8 This is the estimated support for third child or set of children	\$