

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) at the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services helps parents collect child support owed to them. We want to notify you that **House Bill 726**, (Chapter 368, Laws of 2019) went into effect **July 1, 2019**.

What does the new law do?

This new law updates provisions regarding child support for disabled adult children. The intention of the law is to provide continued assistance to a custodial parent who has taken on the caregiving of a disabled adult child.

Who is eligible?

Termination of child support has traditionally happened when the child receiving child support turns 18 or graduates from high school. This new law says that if a child becomes disabled before his or her child support termination date, the custodial parent may continue to receive child support if the following criteria have been met:

1. the child is disabled,
2. the child is financially dependent on the custodial parent, and
3. the custodial parent is the child's caregiver.

What is the process?

A district court will be responsible for deciding if the obligation for child support will continue. The court will determine the disability, financial dependency on the custodial parent, the child's eligibility for public benefits and services, and whether the custodial parent is the caregiver. The obligation to pay child support for the individual with a disability continues until the court finds that the individual is no longer disabled or no longer financially dependent on the custodial parent.

How to get started?

Any parent or nonparent caregiver with custody of a child who needs help to establish, modify, or enforce a child support order may apply to CSED for child support services. If you believe you may be eligible for continued child support of a disabled adult child, please contact the Child Support Enforcement Division at (800) 346-5437.

We look forward to assisting you!