

Did You Hear The News?

Starting in 2017, Provincial Social Assistance programs - Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) - will no longer deduct child support payments.

Currently child support payments are considered income and are deducted "dollar for dollar" from social assistance. Under the new regulations child support payments will be fully exempt from social assistance benefit calculations and will no longer be deducted from social assistance. This means parents will be able to keep the full amount of any child support they receive.

When will the changes take effect?

January 1st, 2017 for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).
February 1st, 2017 for Ontario Works (OW).

Will parents still have to pursue child support in order to receive social assistance?

No. Parents will no longer be required to pursue child support as a condition for receiving social assistance.
Assignments of child support to the Ministry or Ontario Works will no longer be required.

Will these changes apply to spousal support too?

No. Spousal support payments will still be treated as income and deducted from social assistance. Individuals eligible for spousal support will still be required to make reasonable efforts to pursue spousal support as a condition for receiving social assistance.

Why are these changes being made?

These changes are being made in order to increase incomes for families that receive both child support and social assistance. These changes should also decrease administrative costs.

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