

Don't Be Afraid.

If you are domestic violence survivor, you may be afraid to file for child support against the abusive partner. It is possible to receive child support from the other parent without them ever learning of your address or telephone number. You can also get protection from the court officers while you are in court.



WHO MAY FILE FOR CHILD SUPPORT?

Any parent or nonparent caregiver acting as guardian of at least one child under the age of 21 is eligible to apply for child support services.

- If you are the only parent living with the child you are the "custodial parent." As the custodial parent, you may file a child support case against the non-custodial parent.
- If you live with the parent of your child, you can still file for child support against the offending parent if they are refusing to provide any financial support for the child.
- If you are receiving public assistance for the child, it is the Human Resources Administration who may seek a child support order against the offending parent.
- Anyone who has custody of a child, not just the parents, may file for child support from one or both of the parents.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO PAY SUPPORT?

Biological and adoptive parents are required under New York State law to financially support their children. It does not matter if the parents never lived together or were never married.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR CHILD SUPPORT?

The Retreat will assist with completing a child support petition and then submit it at your local Family Court.

CHILD SUPPORT ORDER VIOLATED?

If you already have a support order and are not receiving payments, The Retreat will assist in filing a support violation/enforcement petition at your local Family Court.

Questions?

Contact The Retreat's Court Advocates at (631)591-3350.

How can The Retreat help?

The legal advocates at The Retreat can help victims and survivors of Domestic Violence and assault by:

- Educating clients about their legal rights regarding child support.
- Explaining the process of filing a child support petition in Family Court.
- Helping clients start and complete their child support petitions.
- Helping clients file their child support petitions through Family Court.
- Helping a client complete a violation petition of child support if they already have a court order that is being violated.
- Accompanying clients to their court appearances.
- Explaining the court process to the clients before and after their court appearances.