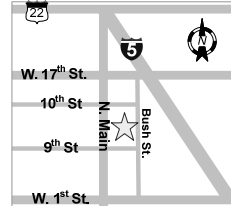


Things to Remember

- ⇒ No default judgment will be entered against you until the court appoints an attorney to represent you and protect your interest.
- ⇒ While you are on active duty, you can request the court to stay the execution of any civil (not criminal) actions (e.g. judgments or orders) when you have not been served with legal papers, or have not been able to appear due to deployment.
- ⇒ You can request a modification of your child support order.
- ⇒ You can request a reduction of the interest rate charged on your child support account.
- ⇒ You have up to 180 days after termination of your military service to assert rights granted by the Act.
- ⇒ The custodial parent may contact the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMCC) at (800) 538-9552 to obtain contact information for the nearest military ID-card-issuing facility where he/she can obtain information on how to enroll the minor child in TRICARE.

Orange County Department of Child Support Services

Steven Eldred, Director



1055 North Main Street
Santa Ana, California
1-866-901-3212

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 22099
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Customer Service Center is open Monday - Friday from
7:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. and one Saturday each month.
(7:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M. - scheduled appointments only)
Visit our website for details. www.css.ocgov.com

Customer Connect

California's Self-Service Website
www.childsup-connect.ca.gov

Payment Mailing Address

State Disbursement Unit
P.O. Box 989067
West Sacramento, CA 95798
Pay Online: www.css.casdu.com
Pay by Phone: 1-866-325-1010



This pamphlet is intended to explain the general procedures of the Department of Child Support Services and should be used for informational purposes only.

Service Members Civil Relief Act



Orange County
Department of
Child Support Services

What is the Service Members Civil Relief Act?

The *Service Members Civil Relief Act* (SCRA) was enacted by Congress in 1918, and amended in 1940, to provide protection to individuals called for active military duty in the U.S. armed forces. The purpose of the Act is to enable persons in the military to devote their entire energy to the defense needs of

Who Does the SMCR Apply To?

Any active member of the following:

- Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve
- Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Reserve
- Navy, Fleet Reserve, Naval Reserve
- Marine Corp, Fleet Marine Reserve, Marine Reserve
- Coast Guard, Reserve Coast Guard
- (All guards and reservists have to be in active federal service duty)
- Officers of the Public Health Services who are called for duty with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard in time of war, or in military service by designation of the President of the United States.

SCRA Provides the Following Benefits

- Review and adjustment of an existing support order.
- Reduced interest rate of 6% on arrears incurred before he/she entered active military duty.
- **Note:** *Balances accrued during and after military service for ongoing past due child support will be calculated at the current rate of 10% per year.*
- Appointment of legal counsel prior to establishing a default judgment

What Do Noncustodial Parents Need to Do to Ensure Protection Under the SCRA?

- ⇒ Assert your entitlement under the SCRA. You may do this by requesting a reduction of the interest rate to 6% on pre-service debt. The lower interest rate is applied to the identified pre-service debt balance for the duration of your military service. Your request must be submitted in writing. You will be asked to provide documentation of active duty status providing the date such status became effective and the estimated length of duty.
- ⇒ Immediately report a change of address or employment to the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS). If a wage assignment exists, DCSS will issue a new wage assignment to the appropriate military branch to avoid lapses in payment, thus preventing the accrual of arrears and interest charges on the child support account.
- ⇒ Request a review and adjustment of the child support order.

Time Period for Coverage

Begins on the date induction orders are received for military service or from the date reservists receive their orders to report for active duty.

Ends on the date of release from active military duty.

Important: Military personnel have up to 180 days after termination of all military service to assert rights granted by the SCRA.

What Should Custodial Parents Do?

- ⇒ Immediately report a change of address to DCSS to ensure proper routing of any child support payments received during the military services.
- ⇒ Request a review and adjustment of the child support order.
- ⇒ If the noncustodial parent is currently in active military duty, and has been ordered to provide medical support for the child, but he/she does not enroll the child in TRICARE (military health care coverage), then the custodial parent will need to call the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMCS) at (800) 538-9552 to get contact information for the nearest military ID-card-issuing facility where he/she can obtain information on how to enroll the minor child in TRICARE. Our office will assist with verifying the existence of a child support case in the event the military ID-card-issuing facility requires such verification.