

TPOPS

The purpose of TPOPS is to inform you about your rights and responsibilities as a parent while you are incarcerated. Our coordinators can provide:

1. Basic information about your child support case status.
2. A review of your case(s) and the terms of the order, such as monthly child support payments, monthly arrears payments, and total arrears owed.
3. A review of your case(s) to see if you are eligible for a child support modification (upon your request).
4. Information on how to establish paternity for your child if you weren't married to the other parent when the child was born.
5. The State of Tennessee Child Support Guidelines (how the child support due is calculated by state law).

Our coordinators will not:

1. Change custody or enforce the visitation provisions of your child support order.
2. File a Termination of Parental Rights petition.
3. Provide you with the address(es) of your children or other parent.
4. Perform DNA testing if you have signed an Acknowledgment of Paternity or if there is an existing child support order.
5. Answer questions other than child support inquiries.
6. Provide legal advice or an attorney.

**Your role
as a father is an
important one,
and we want to
help you become
involved in your
child's life.**

**If you are interested in learning
more about TPOPS, please
contact us:**

**507 S. Gay Street, Suite 400
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902
(865) 964-9190 or
(865) 385-9582**

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

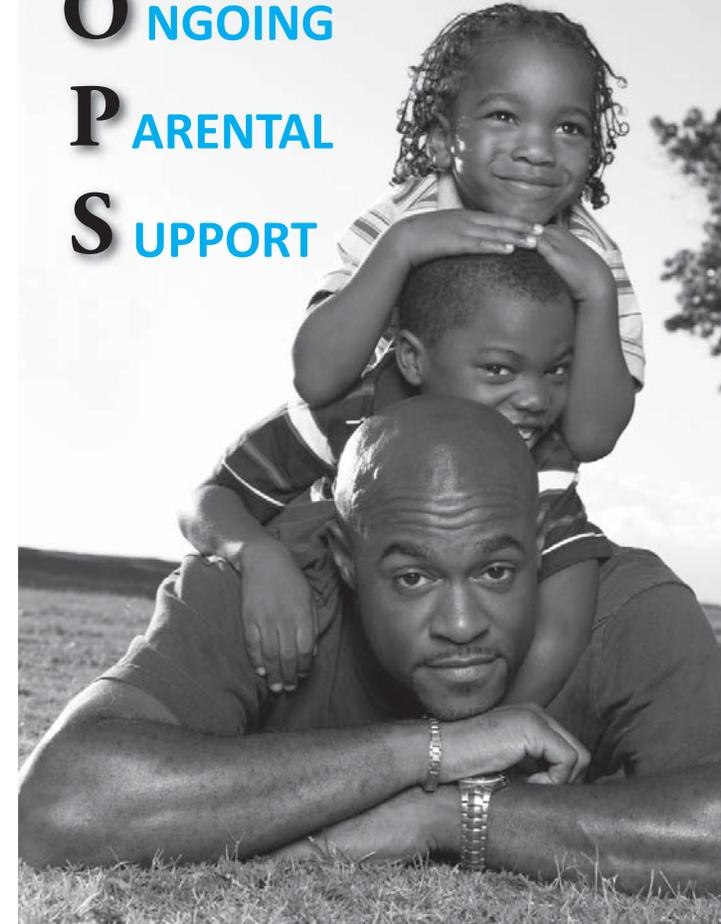


Helping shape Tennessee lives.



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TENNESSEE
PARTNERSHIP for
ONGOING
PARENTAL
SUPPORT



Information for Parents

TPOPS is a program created through federal grant funding in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Human Services, the Tennessee Department of Corrections, and

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE 



How can we help you meet your obligation?

If you have an order to pay child support, be aware that this obligation does not go away while you are in prison.

Because of the importance of both parents providing financial security for their children, the federal government has set up many automated systems that will affect you if you are not cooperating with your local Child Support office.

Our goal is to assist you in knowing what your rights and responsibilities are as a non-custodial parent, understanding your court orders, paying your child support, and offering support to you upon your release from prison.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I'm in prison and cannot work. Why doesn't my child support order change?

Your child's needs don't change because you are in prison. If you have any ability to pay child support while you are in prison, it is in your best interest—and your child's best interest—to do so. You can work with the Child Support Coordinators to request a modification review of your child support case(s).

2. What should I do while I am in prison?

Do everything you can to let your children know you care for and are committed to them. You can work with the Child Support Coordinators to ensure the information on your child support case(s) is current and to gain a better understanding of your responsibilities.

3. I don't have a child support case, so I don't have anything to worry about, right?

You may not have had a child support case when you went to prison, but that doesn't mean a new case can't be established while you are in prison. You can work with the Child Support Coordinators to review any cases in which you may have been named as a possible

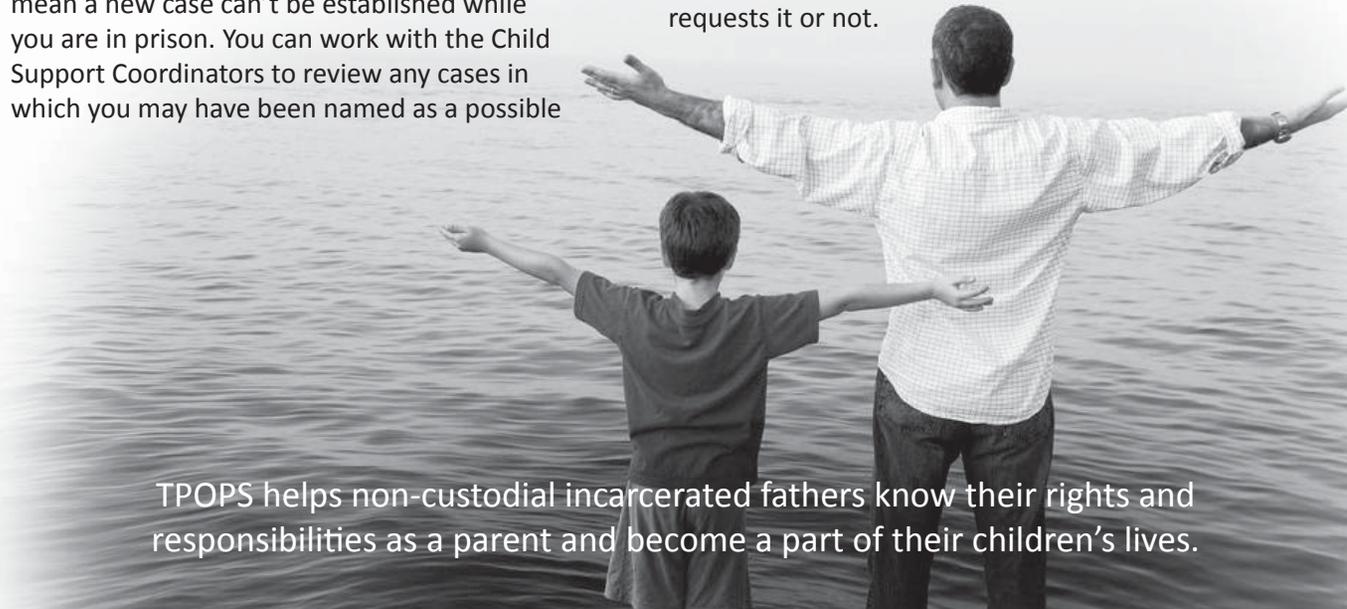
father. We will update the case(s) and work with the local Child Support office to request DNA testing to be able to establish paternity.

4. What are the legal benefits for an incarcerated father when paternity is established?

The most important benefit for children is knowing that they have a father who wants to be in their life. Once paternity has been established, you become the legal father of that child, with all the rights and responsibilities of a father who was married to the mother. There is no guarantee of the right to custody or visitation, but you have a right to raise the issue of custody and visitation in court.

5. The mother of my children and I are together, why do I have a child support case?

In the eyes of the law, you are incarcerated and the other parent and your children are living separately from you. If the custodial parent needs assistance from the State and applies for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the State may proceed with a child support order whether the custodial parent requests it or not.



TPOPS helps non-custodial incarcerated fathers know their rights and responsibilities as a parent and become a part of their children's lives.