

Bucks County Domestic Relations Section

Wants You To

**Get Informed
Be Informed
Stay Informed**



What's Inside...

Director's Message...	1
Family Violence...	2
Available Services...	3
Support Conferences...	4
Paying Support...	5
Receiving Support...	6
Enforcement Action...	7
Court Hearings...	8
Bench Warrants...	9
Contact Information...	10
Frequently Asked Questions...	11
Support Payment Options...	12

Director’s Message

Karen E. Winkler, Director

Bucks County Domestic Relations Section focuses on the well-being of children and families.

All children need the financial support of both parents to grow into healthy, productive adults. Bucks County Domestic Relations is a court office committed to promoting the health and well-being of children by establishing support orders and ensuring parents pay child support on a regular and timely basis.

In 2018, Bucks County Domestic Relations collected more than \$78 million of support for more than 17,000 children. Bucks County Domestic Relations established paternity for more than 700 children, scheduled more than 4,000 support conferences and more than 4,100 contempt hearings, and in collaboration with the Bucks County Sheriff’s Office, is actively pursuing approximately 300 outstanding support warrants.

Bucks County Domestic Relations recognizes the importance of parental involvement

Bucks County Domestic Relations consists of 90 dedicated professionals who are committed to making a difference in the lives of children. Bucks County Domestic Relations recognizes the importance of child support to children and families and applauds those parents who financially support their children.

Get Informed

Bucks County Domestic Relations, a department with the Family Court Division, enters and enforces support orders

Bucks County Domestic Relations does NOT handle custody, visitation, protection from abuse or divorce.

If you need assistance regarding these services, Bucks County Domestic Relations will refer you to the correct Family Court Department

Family Violence

Bucks County Domestic Relations Section is committed to the safety of its clients.

If you believe sharing your personal information may cause physical or emotional harm to you or your child(ren), contact Bucks County Domestic Relations immediately. Bucks County Domestic Relations will designate your information such as address, phone number and employer information CONFIDENTIAL from the other party.

If you believe pursuing child support may cause physical or emotional harm to you or your child(ren), contact our office immediately and appropriate action will be taken.

If you or your child(ren) are the victim of domestic violence and you receive notice to appear for a support conference or hearing, contact our office immediately and appropriate safety steps will be taken.

Be Informed

**Do not let the threat of domestic violence
prevent you from pursuing support**

**You may request your personal case
information be designated CONFIDENTIAL**

Available Services

Bucks County Domestic Relations Section establishes and enforces support orders per Pennsylvania State guidelines.

Any adult or agency with physical custody of a child may file for support.

There are approximately 4 to 6 weeks between filing date and the scheduled conference date

Parties can pick up petitioning information at the Domestic Relations Section, 100 North Main Street, Doylestown or at the Bristol Office, 1240 Veterans Highway, Bristol. Parties can file on their own at the Intake Unit in Doylestown. Parties may also file online through the state's secure website at www.childsupport.state.pa.us.

Bucks County Domestic Relations assists parties in filing against non-custodial parents who live out of county, state or country at either office location.

Bucks County Domestic Relations will attempt to establish paternity in all cases in which the child(ren) were born out of wedlock and no paternity acknowledgment has been signed. If defendant denies paternity, DNA testing is done by an on-site lab the day of the scheduled conference. Results are received in approximately four weeks. The cost is paid by the defendant if he is found to be the father or signs an acknowledgement based upon the results. No cost is paid if the defendant is excluded and the plaintiff's complaint is dismissed.

Bucks County Domestic Relations performs locate services if a non-custodial parent's whereabouts are unknown. Once a good address is found, the process of establishing a support order will continue. If a good address cannot be found, your case may be closed due to lack of information.

Bucks County Domestic Relations will enforce all court orders payable through its office.

Interpreter services will be provided if you speak a language other than English or are hearing impaired. Contact our office prior to your scheduled appointment.

Bucks County Domestic Relations assists clients in job searches by providing information about PA CareerLink®. Visit www.jobgateway.pa.gov and the PA CareerLink® offices for more information on employment and training opportunities.

Stay Informed

Visit PA CareerLink® Bucks County locations M-F 8:30am-4:00pm:

Main Office (215) 781-1073
1260 Veterans Highway
Bristol, PA 190071

Satellite Office (215) 258-7700
Bucks County Community College
Hillendale Road, Perkasie, PA 18944

Visit www.JobGateway.pa.gov to create a resume, conduct a job search, and register for FREE trainings

Support Conferences

Bucks County Domestic Relations Section establishes support orders based on both parties' incomes.

Parties are required to attend a support conference and provide income and expense sheets, six months of pay stubs, last filed income tax returns, and documentation of additional expenses.

The goal of a support conference is an agreed order based on the PA guideline

Parties' communication and cooperation is essential

calculations. If parties cannot agree, the matter is scheduled for a court hearing for entry of an order.

An order contains terms regarding the support amount, arrears payment, health insurance coverage, child care costs, school tuition, and/or mortgage. Order amounts are based on parties' combined net incomes.

Unreimbursed medical expenses do not include cosmetic, chiropractic, psychiatric or psychological expenses unless specified in the support order.

Bring all documentation to the conference verifying income, expenses and health insurance coverage

Continuance requests must be made in writing prior to the conference and must note the position of the other side. Do not assume the conference will be continued. The officer will make a decision and notify parties and counsel.

In a new or modification matter, if parties are both legally represented, the attorney(s) may submit agreement terms or a stipulation, as long as a petition has been filed. If only one party is legally represented, or neither party is legally represented, a conference must be held and guideline calculations must be completed. A copy of orders made on the record in divorce proceedings must be sent to Domestic Relations for the order to be entered or modified. All agreements must state the order is payable through Bucks County Domestic Relations.

A request for a telephone conference must be made prior to the conference and all income information and contact information must be received before the request will be considered. Approval is at the discretion of the officer.

Parties may represent themselves or hire an attorney. Only parties and attorneys may attend conferences.

Get Informed

Being informed allows you to make quality decisions about support

Paying Support
How to meet your support responsibility.

State Law requires wage attachment on all support cases.

You are responsible to make payments directly to PA SCDU until your wage attachment takes effect.

You are responsible to make additional payments to PA SCDU if your wage attachment doesn't cover the full monthly support order amount.

PA SCDU will send one payment coupon each month to parents ordered to pay child support and who do not have income withholding. You must write on the coupon the amount of money you are paying. Make your personal check, cashier's check or money order payable to PA SCDU. Include a coupon with every payment to PA SCDU. However, if you do not have a payment coupon, write your PACSES member number, which is found on your court order, or Social Security Number (SSN) on your check or money order.

If you live in Pennsylvania,
send payments to:

PA SCDU
PO Box 69110
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9110

If you live outside of Pennsylvania,
send payments to:

PA SCDU
PO Box 61167
Harrisburg, PA 17106-1167

PA SCDU cannot accept checks that are considered non-negotiable by banking standards. Some examples of non-negotiable items are: checks that are stale dated, post dated, not signed; checks that are not payable to PA SCDU; the amount in numbers does not match the written amount. PA SCDU also does not accept temporary checks or starter checks.

Make payments in conjunction with a contempt proceeding in cash or with a debit card at the DRS payment window 8:00am - 4:45pm.

**REFER TO THE LAST PAGE FOR A FULL LIST OF SUPPORT PAYMENT
OPTIONS.**

Be Informed

<p>Do NOT make payments at BCDRS Do NOT pay Plaintiff directly Do NOT bounce a check</p>

Receiving Support How payments are received.

All child support payments are disbursed via Direct Deposit or the Pennsylvania *EPPICard*.

To sign up for **Direct Deposit**

- Complete the Direct Deposit enrollment form at www.childsupport.state.pa.us or contact BCDRS Client Services 215-340-8068

If you have a checking or savings account, you may arrange to receive child support payments by Direct Deposit. Direct Deposit is FREE, FAST, SECURE, and CONVENIENT.

If you do not sign up for Direct Deposit, you will automatically receive the **EPPICard**. EPPICard is a debit card accepted everywhere MasterCard is accepted. There is a minimal transaction fee for ATM cash withdrawals and balance inquiries. It is not a credit card. Funds are only available if support is paid.

The United States Congress passed a law effective July 28, 2008 which requires a \$35.00 annual fee each year for certain child support cases. This yearly fee is collected to cover some of the federal government's costs of providing child support enforcement services.

In Pennsylvania, this fee will only be deducted from the custodial parent after \$2000.00 of child support is collected in a year from the non-custodial parent and the custodial parent has never received cash assistance.

Stay Informed

Use EPPICard at point of sale devices, cash withdrawals at ATMs, retail and grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, retail outlets, medical service locations, pharmacies, and other locations worldwide

Child support does not automatically stop when a child is emancipated (reaches 18 and graduates high school); a petition must be filed

Child support may continue beyond emancipation if there are extraordinary circumstances

Enforcement Action

Bucks County Domestic Relations Section takes enforcement when a party does not comply with terms of an order.

Contact BCDRS Client Services at csbucks@pases.com or 215-340-8068 to request enforcement for missed support, unreimbursed medical/dental, daycare costs, tuition and other ordered expenses.

Officers review cases and make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

The outstanding support balance is called arrears.

Provide copies of your medical card to Bucks County Domestic Relations

If you fail to make payments, BCDRS may take any of the following enforcement remedies against you:

- Wage Attachment
- PA Unemployment Compensation Attachment
- Contempt Hearing
- Credit Bureau Reporting
- Passport Denial
- Driver’s License Suspension
- Professional License Suspension
- Recreational License Suspension
- Lottery Intercept

Search for Hiring Events at www.jobgateway.pa.gov

- Federal and State Tax Refund Intercept
- Financial Institution Data Match
- (Bank account balances are seized and applied to support arrears)
- Child Support Lien Network
- (Law suit settlements are seized and applied to support arrears)
- Intercept of Worker’s Compensation
- Property Lien

Make payments in conjunction with a contempt proceeding in cash or with a debit card at the DRS payment window 8:00am - 4:45pm.

No credit is given for payments made outside the court directly to plaintiff except where specifically ordered by the court.

Get Informed

BC DRS wants to immediately address any issue which may prevent you from making support payments. Email csbucks@pases.com

Bucks County Domestic Relations staff recognizes support decisions are often emotional and difficult to make

Court Hearings

Bucks County Domestic Relations Section schedules prompt court hearings.

Court hearings are held approximately three to four weeks from the date of the conference. Court notices advise you to appear at 8:30am. Domestic Relations officers attempt to work out agreements prior to parties seeing the judge. Parties may represent themselves or hire an attorney.

In contempt matters, parties listed for contempt run the risk of incarceration. Assistant Public Defenders are available to defendants and Assistant District Attorneys are available to plaintiffs.

In new and modification matters, even if one party does not appear, a judge can enter an order.

Judges issue bench warrants for defendants who fail to appear for court.

Continuance requests must be made in writing prior to the hearing and must note the position of the other side to the request. The request can be emailed to csbucks@pases.com. Do not assume the hearing will be continued. The officer will make a decision and notify parties and counsel.

Bucks County Domestic Relations staff are not permitted to give legal advice or discuss cases outside the courtroom or hearing room

Be Informed

**No children are allowed in the courtrooms
No child care services are offered while parties
are in a hearing or conference**

Contact Bucks County Domestic Relations immediately if you have questions about your support order terms at csbucks@pases.com

Bench Warrants

Court Orders to Appear should not be ignored.

If the defendant does not voluntarily appear at Domestic Relations, a bench warrant is issued for the defendant's arrest. The Bucks County Sheriffs will apprehend the defendant. The defendant is charged transportation costs when apprehended. Every attempt is made to notify plaintiffs when defendants are apprehended.

Parties must inform BCDRS of any change in their employment or personal address within seven days per 23 CSA 4553(a). Parties can update their information at www.childsupport.state.pa.us or email their information to csbucks@pases.com.

Defendants with outstanding bench warrants may have their driver's or recreational licenses suspended and/or bank accounts frozen and seized.

Visit www.childsupport.state.pa.us from your mobile device for access to services at your fingertips.

Stay Informed

To avoid arrest, contact Bucks County Domestic Relations immediately if you have an outstanding bench warrant at (215) 348-6843

Failure to appear as directed by the court is a serious matter which could result in an order being entered in your absence, fines or imprisonment

Contact Information

The key to managing your support case easily and effectively.

Parties can email questions to the Client Services Unit at csbucks@pacses.com or call Monday-Friday from 8am to 4:45pm at 215-340-8068.

A computer automated system is accessible 24-hours/day at 1-877-727-7238. Hearing impaired number is 1-877-676-9582.

An Officer of the Day is available from 8am to 4:45pm to speak to parties regarding their cases at the Justice Center, 100 North Main Street, Doylestown. No appointment necessary. The secure state website www.childsupport.state.pa.us is available 24-hours per day.

The state provides a secure website www.childsupport.state.pa.us for plaintiffs and defendants to update address and employer information, view payment history,

Always keep contact information current

account balances and docket entries, and receive e-reminders for scheduled appointments. Employers can update address information and view a list of employees under wage attachment.

The Bristol Office, 1240 Veterans Highway, Bristol, is available from 8am to 4:45pm to obtain petitioning forms, request enforcement, and ask questions regarding support cases.

Bucks County Domestic Relations offers REACH OUT, a free course providing information to the public, to better understand how support orders are established and enforced.

BCDRS Goal is to increase compliance and parental involvement through education

Ask about scheduled classes or contact Bucks County Domestic Relations to schedule a presentation for your agency or organization.

Get Informed

A mobile child support website is now available! Visit www.childsupport.state.pa.us from your mobile device for access to services at your fingertips!

To access account information, have your PACSES case number ready

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the plaintiff? The party with physical custody of child and/or person receiving payments is the plaintiff.

Who is the defendant? The non-custodial parent and/or person making payments is the defendant.

Must I file for child support? No. Only plaintiffs receiving cash assistance must file for support. If you are not receiving assistance, you may choose to file or not file for support.

Can a relative or friend come with me or attend in my place? Third parties may not accompany you into the conference or hearing. As you are a party in the case, you are required to attend. Third parties may not attend in place of you.

What if I have no transportation to BCDRS Doylestown Office? Call Bucks County Transport 1-888-795-0740 (English and Spanish)

What happens if plaintiff or defendant moves out of Bucks County? The order can still be modified and/or enforced by Bucks County. Contact the Intake Unit in Doylestown or the Bristol Office for more information.

Am I charged for using Domestic Relations? There is no filing fee. A one-time judicial computer fee is charged upon entry of an order.

What is a PACSES number and why do I need one? It is the number assigned to your case statewide and necessary to access your specific case information.

What is a member number and why do I need one? It is the number assigned to you statewide and necessary to access your specific member information.

How do I change my assigned officer? Officers are assigned by the first letter of the defendant's last name. You cannot change officers.

How can I modify my support order amount? If there is a significant change in circumstances, you may file a petition to modify the order. You may contact this office for filing instructions.

How do I update my employer and personal information? Go to www.childsupport.state.pa.us or email your updated information to csbucks@pacses.com.

Can the DRS office help me secure employment? You can speak to any DRS staff about PA CareerLink® services, register at www.jobgateway.pa.gov to conduct a job search, and visit PA CareerLink® offices at 1260 Veterans Highway, Bristol or 1 Hillendale Road, Bucks County Community College Campus, Perkasié.

Support Payment Options

Your PACSES Member ID: _____

Option Name	Fee Associated	Processing Time	Where to Pay	Additional Info
	FREE	5-7 Banking Days	www.expertpay.com	This is used for one-time or recurring withdrawals from a bank account. You must register and setup an account on the website. There is no limit on the transaction amount. Customer Service Number: 1-800-403-0879
Check or Money Order	FREE (other than any purchase fees of the money order)	Immediate upon receipt.	PA SCDU PO Box 69110 Harrisburg, PA 17106-9110	Payment must be made out to PA SCDU. In order for payment to be processed, you must include the non-custodial parent's name and PACSES Member ID number or SSN. Customer Service Number: 1-877-727-7238
PA SCDU IVR	2.95% for \$0-\$700; \$20.00 for \$700.01 or greater	Next Banking Day	1-800-955-2305	Accepts MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Payments made by 11:59PM the prior day, will be posted the following day. Customer Service Number: 1-877-727-7238
	\$3.99	4-7 Banking Days	See MoneyGram website (www.moneygram.com) for list of locations.	Must pay by cash or debit card with pin number. Transaction Limits vary by location. PA SCDU receive code is 14677. Customer Service Number: 1-800-666-3947.
	\$7.99 for \$0-\$300; \$10.99 for \$300.01-\$500	4 Banking Days	http://www.moneygram.com/paybills?receiveCode=14677	Limit of \$500 per transaction and total of \$2999 over a 30 day period. May be made with a credit card or debit card. Your credit card company may charge cash advance fee and interest. PA SCDU receive code is 14677.

Register at the state's secure website

www.childsupport.state.pa.us

to update address and employer information; view payment history, account balances and docket entries; and receive e-reminders for scheduled appointments



**Get Informed
Be Informed
Stay Informed**

Bucks County Domestic Relations Section

2020