

Child Maintenance

At the present time the Child Support Agency applies three rates in calculating the amount of child maintenance payable by the non-resident parent. These rates are determined by the *net* income of the non-resident paying parent:

The basic rate

For those with a net income of £200.00 per week or more.

(subject to a net maximum income of £2,000.00 per week which will increase to a *gross maximum weekly income* of £3,000.00 when the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 is activated. Once the 2008 Act becomes operative law a different formula will apply.

The reduced rate

Where the net income of the paying parent is £100.00 -£200.00 per week

The flat rate

Where the net income of the paying parent is less than £5.00 per week

Once the appropriate rate has been determined, the CSA applies the following calculation:

Child Maintenance at the basic rate:

15% of net weekly earnings in respect of the first child

20% for two children

25% for three or more children

Child maintenance at the reduced rate:

A standard amount of £5.00

Plus a percentage of the weekly income over £100.00 of:

25% for 1 child:

35% for 2 children:

45% for 3 or more children

Child maintenance at the flat rate

non resident parent must pay £5.00 per week to the principal carer irrespective of how many children are involved.

The following adjustments are made where any of the following situations apply in respect of the non-resident parent:

Where the non resident parent has other children living with him/her:

A proportion of the non-resident's parent's income will be disregarded in the assessment of Child maintenance, the amount disregarded will be commensurate with what that parent would be paying in maintenance for that child

Where the non resident parent pays maintenance for other children not living with him/her

The Child Support Agency will calculate the total amount of child maintenance payable for all of the children and then divide it by the number of children. However, it is important to note that the Agency will only take account of maintenance payments that are made by the paying parent through them; they will not take account of amounts that are paid through private arrangements.