

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS & CHILD SUPPORT**

### **Frequently-Asked Questions**

---

#### **I heard the US government is giving eligible Americans \$1,200 each. Is that true?**

Yes it is. The government passed a law to give people a financial boost during this crisis.

---

#### **How much can we get?**

You may get:

- \$1,200 for each eligible adult
  - \$500 for each eligible child (under 17)
- 

#### **Who is eligible to get a payment?**

You may get the full amount if your adjusted gross income is up to:

- \$75,000 for an individual
- \$150,000 for a married couple who file their tax returns jointly

The payment goes down gradually for those who make more money.

---

#### **What if I owe-past due child support?**

The IRS may hold back (*intercept*) all or part of your payment if:

1. You owe past-due child support, and
2. Your child support debt was submitted to the federal Treasury Offset Program (TOP).

To find out if your debt was submitted to TOP, call 1-800-304-3107.

---

#### **When are child support debts sent to TOP?**

OCS submits names to TOP as follows:

- When \$150 or more in past-due support is owed— if the other parent has received public benefits for the child.
- When \$500 or more in past-due support owed — if the other parent has not received public benefits for the child.

### **What if I think my economic impact payment should not have been taken?**

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, if you have back due child support (arrears) that was referred to the federal Treasury Offset Program (TOP), then OCS is must intercept these funds.

Call OCS at 1-800-786-3214 if you:

- Don't think you owe any past-due child support, or
  - Disagree with the amount owed.
- 

### **Will my current spouse's economic impact payment be intercepted too?**

That depends. If you file your taxes jointly:

1. The IRS may hold back payments for you, your spouse and any children living in the home — up to the amount that's owed if you did not file an injured spouse claim when you filed your taxes.
  2. The IRS will send these payments to OCS.
  3. OCS will hold the payments for up to six months to give your spouse time to submit an *Injured Spouse* claim to the IRS. They can do so at <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-8379>.
- 

### **Are there any exceptions due to financial hardship?**

No. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) does not give the states the ability to reduce or eliminate intercepts due to financial hardship.

---

### **If my economic impact payment was intercepted, will my federal income tax refund also be intercepted?**

If you still owe-past due support after the economic impact payment is applied to your balance, your federal income tax refund may also be intercepted.

---

### **Where can I learn more?**

Go to:

- <https://vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-economic-impact-stimulus-payments>
- [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)

If you still have questions, call OCS Customer Service at 1-800-786-3214.