

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Economic Impact (Stimulus) Payments and the Treasury Offset Program

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Michigan Office of Child Support (OCS) has received information from the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), which collects federal nontax and state debts, and has prepared the following frequently asked questions (FAQs) during this crisis. These FAQs are based on information available to OCS at this time, and OCS will update these FAQs as new information becomes available.

Economic Impact Payments:

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act, which, among other things, authorizes economic impact payments (also referred to as “stimulus payments” or “recovery rebate payments”) to eligible individuals. For details on these stimulus payments, please visit www.irs.gov/coronavirus

I owe past-due child support. Will this be taken out of my stimulus payment?

Stimulus payments will be intercepted through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) to collect past due child support debt.

I’m not sure if I have past-due child support. How can I check?

To check your account balance online, go online to <http://www.michigan.gov/michildsupport> or call the Friend of the Court IVR (interactive voice response) number at 877-543-2660 and follow the prompts.

If I qualify for a stimulus payment, and I have children, how much will I receive?

For more information on stimulus payments, [view this FAQ from the IRS.](#)

How much of my stimulus payment can be intercepted to cover my past due child support?

The entire amount that is past due will be intercepted up to the total of the stimulus payment.

For public assistance cases, the child support debt must be at least \$150 for the stimulus payment to be intercepted. For non-public assistance cases, the child support debt must be at least \$500.

What if I think this money should not have been taken out of my payment?

If you believe that the amount was taken out in error, you can call the Friend of the Court that enforces your child support case. The Friend of the Court office can review your case and make sure the interception of funds was correct.

When will the stimulus payment be applied to my child support account and payment released to the person who receives support?

If the parent who owes support files a joint tax return with his/her spouse, it may take up to six months for the payment to be sent to the person who receives support. This allows the spouse of a parent responsible for support to appeal as an injured spouse as described below. The State expects to start processing stimulus payments during the last week of April.

What if I am not the person that owes the child support debt?

If you are receiving your stimulus payment jointly with your spouse and only the spouse owes the child support debt, you can file an injured spouse form with the IRS. Please visit the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-8379> to file your claim.

You can also choose to waive your right to file an injured spouse claim by contacting the Friend of the Court office that enforces your child support case. The amount of the economic impact payment can then be applied to the child support case without the otherwise required six-month delay.

What if I have additional questions about the stimulus payments? Am I eligible? What if I don't file a tax return? How will I get the payment?

These questions, and others, can be answered by visiting the IRS website at www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know