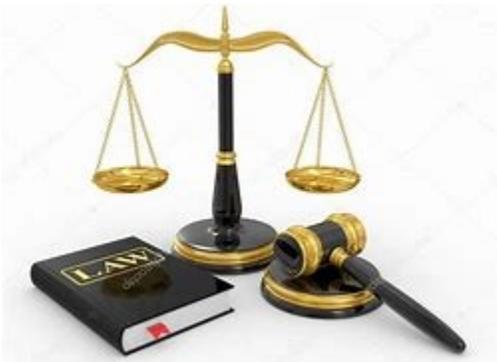


# ***PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CHILD SUPPORT***



***Wayne County Prosecutor's  
Office***

***Child Support Division***

***301 E Main St***

***Richmond, IN 47374***

***(765) 973-9285***

## ***What is public assistance?***

***Public assistance is any type of benefits received through the Division of Family Resources (DFR) including Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid and food stamps.***

## ***What is the connection between public assistance and the Child Support Division?***

***When you apply for TANF, the form that you sign states that you must cooperate with the Child Support Division. Your DFR caseworker may advise you to come to the Child Support Division and fill out an application, or you may receive a letter from the Child Support Division to come in and fill out an application.***

## ***Do I have to establish paternity if I receive public assistance?***

***Yes. If you have not already established paternity for your child, you must do so if you receive TANF, but you don't have to if you only receive Medicaid or food stamps.***

## ***Do I have to get a child support order if I receive public assistance?***

***Maybe. If you receive TANF, or monthly cash benefits for your child, you are required to get a child support order for your child. If you do not receive TANF, but your child does receive Medicaid or food stamps, you are not required to get a child support order.***

**Can I receive both child support and TANF for a child?**

*No. You either can receive monthly TANF benefits for your child or you can receive your child support payment for your child. If you choose to receive TANF in a certain month, any child support that is paid for that month will go to the state repay the TANF that you received.*

**What happens if I don't show up at a child support or paternity hearing when I am receiving TANF?**

*The Child Support Division will request that the DFR sanction your TANF, or cut off your benefits. In many cases, the court even will go ahead and hold the hearing without your presence.*

**What happens if I don't fill out an application with the Child Support Division when I am asked to do so?**

*If you do not cooperate with the Child Support Division by filling out an application, the Child Support Division will request that the DFR sanction your TANF benefits. This means that the DFR will take away your TANF. However, the DFR will not sanction your child's Medicaid coverage.*

**Does it cost anything to fill out an application with the Child Support Division?**

*There is no charge for services through the Child Support Division.*

**If I am sanctioned for not cooperating with the Child Support Division, how can I get the sanction released?**

*You must fully cooperate with the Child Support Division in order to have your sanction released. Cooperation may include filling out an application, naming a father for your child, providing an address for your child's other parent, signing any required legal documents, and appearing at court hearings as ordered.*