

VEHICLE LIENS AND CHILD SUPPORT



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

Child Support Division

301 E Main St

Richmond, IN 47374

(765) 973-9285

What is a lien?

A lien is a legal notice of financial interest in a piece of property. When the State places a lien on your vehicle, it notifies the BMV that the State has a financial interest in the vehicle because you owe back child support that the State is trying to collect. A lien prevents you from selling, trading, or otherwise transferring your vehicle to another person.

Why is there a lien on my vehicle for child support?

The State of Indiana automatically places liens on the vehicles of parents who have a child support arrearage over \$1,000 or who have not made a child support payment for three months.

Who must give authorization to release the lien?

The Child Support Division must give authorization to the State of Indiana to release the lien. Once the Child Support Division notifies the State that the lien should be released, the State will mail the vehicle title or lien release to the first or second lien holder, or to the owner of the vehicle.

What do I have to do to get the lien released?

The Child Support Division requires that you make at least four weekly child support payments, or a lump sum equal to one month's worth of child support payments. If you make these payments, the Child Support Division will release the lien on your vehicle.

The Child Support Division released my lien but I never received the title. How can I get my title?

First, make sure that your mailing address is correct with the Child Support Division. Next, you can call the Central Enforcement Unit of the Indiana State Child Support Bureau at (317) 234-5700 for help with getting your title.

The Child Support Division released by lien, but the BMV says I have more than one lien. What do I do?

If you owe child support in more than one county, you may have more than one lien on your vehicle. You will have to ask both counties to release their liens before the State will release your title to you.

I have been paying my child support, so why did the State put a lien on my vehicle?

If you owe more than \$1,000 in back support, the State automatically will place liens on your vehicles, even if you are paying toward your current support obligation and back support. Contact the Child Support Division to have your lien released.

Will the State take my vehicle if I'm not paying my child support and it has a lien on it?

No. If you don't make payment arrangements with the Child Support Division in order to have your lien released, the State will not take your vehicle. The lien simply will remain on your vehicle until the Child Support Division authorizes its release.

Can't the Child Support Division just give me a letter to take to the BMV in order to have the lien released

No. The Child Support Division has to notify the State in order to have the lien released and the vehicle title sent to you.