

## Serial-Family Parent Worksheet to Estimate Support

### Important to Know

1. The worksheet only offers an estimate of what your support might be.
2. The use of the Serial-Family parent formula is at the court's discretion.
  - A Serial-Family parent's available income for later child support orders may be reduced by that parent's earlier legal obligations (duty to support).
  - For the parent's first legal obligation (duty) to support a child, the court may use the paying parent's gross income or ability to earn.
    - Gross income is defined as all income and earnings from all sources. This income may or may not be taxable. Income can be in the form of money, property, or services.
    - Ability to earn considers the parent's job and wage history, health, education, and available job openings
3. The available income for a newer legal obligation is the parent's income minus the obligations that came before.
4. If a serial-family parent has an existing Shared-Placement, a Split-Placement or a combined Split-Placement & Shared-Placement case, the court may use the parent's estimated support for the total number of children in these placements under the non-prorated amounts under the Percentage Standard (see #6 below). In the existing case, the parent may be the parent paying support or receiving support. For example, if the parent has 4 children in a combined Split Placement & Shared-Placement case, multiply the parent's income by the full 31%.
5. The order of the legal obligation (duty to support) is based on when the support obligation began. The legal obligation may include a parent's current, intact family (the family the parent lives with and supports). A support obligation begins on the date when:
  - the child is born if the child was conceived or born during the parent's marriage
  - the child is adopted into an intact family
  - **legal fatherhood (paternity) is established** or the child is adopted if the child was born outside of marriage. For the mother of a child born outside of marriage, the obligation (duty) to support begins at the child's birth
6. The Percentage Standards are:
  - **17%** of gross or available income for 1 child
  - **25%** of gross or available income for 2 children
  - **29%** of gross or available income for 3 children
  - **31%** of gross or available income for 4 children
  - **34%** of gross or available income for 5 or more children

**[Please see DCF 150 for more details about Serial-Family Parent cases.](#)**

For more information about court orders and setting child support amounts, go to **[childsupport.wisconsin.gov](http://childsupport.wisconsin.gov)**

You can fill out this worksheet online or by hand. If you fill out the information online, you can print the completed worksheet and save a copy on your computer.

## Serial-Family Parent Worksheet

<b>First Obligation</b>	<b>Line 1</b>	<b>Enter</b> paying parent's <u>monthly income</u>	\$
	<b>Line 2</b>	<b>Enter</b> the percent based on the number of children in this set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 1 child, enter <b>17%</b></li> <li>• For 2 children, enter <b>25%</b></li> <li>• For 3 children, enter <b>29%</b></li> <li>• For 4 children, enter <b>31%</b></li> <li>• For 5 or more children, enter <b>34%</b></li> </ul>	X %
	<b>Line 3</b>	<b>Multiply</b> Line 1 by Line 2 This is the estimated support for this child or set of children	\$
<b>Second Obligation</b>	<b>Line 4</b>	<b>Subtract</b> Line 3 from Line 1. This is parent's available income for the second set of children	\$
	<b>Line 5</b>	<b>Enter</b> the percent based on the number of the children in the second set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 1 child, enter <b>17%</b></li> <li>• For 2 children, enter <b>25%</b></li> <li>• For 3 children, enter <b>29%</b></li> <li>• For 4 children, enter <b>31%</b></li> <li>• For 5 or more children, enter <b>34%</b></li> </ul>	X %
	<b>Line 6</b>	<b>Multiply</b> Line 4 by Line 5 This is the estimated support for this child or set of children  If there are only 2 sets of children, stop here.	\$
<b>Third Obligation</b>	<b>Line 7</b>	<b>Subtract</b> Line 6 from Line 4. This is paying parent's available income for the third child or set of children.	\$
	<b>Line 8</b>	<b>Enter</b> the percent based on the number children in this set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 1 child, enter <b>17%</b></li> <li>• For 2 children, enter <b>25%</b></li> <li>• For 3 children, enter <b>29%</b></li> <li>• For 4 children, enter <b>31%</b></li> <li>• For 5 or more children, enter <b>34%</b></li> </ul>	X %
	<b>Line 9</b>	<b>Multiply</b> Line 7 by Line 8 This is the estimated support for third child or set of children	\$