



New Jersey Judiciary **Judgments and the Child Support Enforcement Program** **FAQs**

Probation child support enforcement helps ensure the welfare of children, families, and communities in New Jersey by working with both parents to collect timely, consistent court-ordered child support, alimony, and medical support.

Probation is responsible for taking enforcement action when court-ordered current or past-due support is not being paid, or court-ordered health care coverage for a dependent child is not being provided.

A judgment is one tool probation uses to enforce unpaid child support obligations. A judgment will be entered automatically when child support is unpaid. This means the money owed is certified and reported to the Superior Court Clerk's Office. Spousal support arrears are included in a judgment when they are collected with child support arrears.

How do I collect on my judgment?

If you have an open case payable through probation, the requesting party (debtor/obligor, attorney, title company, executor) will contact probation to certify the amount owed. The judgment payment will be collected by probation on your behalf. If the case is no longer monitored by probation, you will be contacted directly by the requesting party, and the judgment payment will be made directly to you.

What is post-judgment interest?

Post-judgment interest is the daily charge on an unpaid judgment to compensate the creditor/obligee for the delay in payment. The attorney for either party or a county social service agency attorney is responsible for calculating post-judgment interest. Parties also can agree to an alternate interest calculation or a lump sum interest payment. The creditor/obligee can also waive the calculation of interest if they want to do so.

If I am the creditor/obligee and owed support, can I collect money from a child support judgment if the obligor/debtor was awarded money in a lawsuit or settlement?

Yes, you are legally entitled to funds from a lawsuit, inheritance, or settlement. Please refer to "*How do I collect on my judgment?*" above.

What happens to my outstanding arrears when my probation case is closed? Am I still owed this money?

Yes. Even though your case with probation is closed, any outstanding arrears are reduced to judgment. The judgment remains open, and you are also entitled to post-judgment interest. Since the probation case is closed, probation no longer monitors your case and will not collect the money.

My child support case is closed, and I don't owe arrears. Why is my judgment still open?

Although a child support case can be closed in probation, a child support judgment could remain open with the Superior Court Clerk's Office. All outstanding judgments are subject to post-judgment interest. A judgment will remain open until a Warrant of Satisfaction (WOS) or court order satisfying the judgment is filed with the Superior Court Clerk's Office.

As a creditor/obligee, what is my role in the WOS process?

As the creditor/obligee and person owed support, you are responsible for ensuring that you have received the money owed to you before deciding to sign the WOS. You could receive a WOS from the probation division if the case is open through probation, or directly from the obligor/debtor if the case is no longer monitored by probation. Once you return the signed WOS to the requesting party, they are responsible for filing it with the Superior Court Clerk's Office.

As the obligor/debtor, how do I obtain a WOS if my case is closed with the probation division?

If you want to close the judgment, a WOS or court order is required.

You or your attorney can contact the other party directly and obtain a WOS independently.

A sample copy of a WOS can be found at www.njcourts.gov by searching for the Warrant to Satisfy Judgment Child Support.

What happens if you are unable to obtain the creditor's signature on the WOS?

If the creditor's signature is not obtained on the WOS, the debtor will need to apply in family court in the appropriate county of venue to satisfy the judgment. The court order and the appropriate filing fee must be filed with the Superior Court Clerk's Office.

What do I do when I have the completed WOS or court order?

The WOS must be filed with the Superior Court Clerk's Office with the required filing fee. Attorneys must submit the WOS through Judiciary Electronic Document Submission (JEDS). Self-represented litigants have the option of submitting the signed WOS through JEDS, mail or delivering it in person. Additional information can be found at www.njcourts.gov.

Superior Court Clerk's Office

P.O. Box 971

25 Market St., 6th Floor, Trenton, N.J. 08625

How to contact us

For assistance with judgments on child support cases, call the New Jersey Family Support Services Center at 1-877-655-4371.

New Jersey Family Support Services Center

1-877-655-4371

www.njchildsupport.gov

Additional questions about procedures for filing a WOS can be directed to the Superior Court Clerk's Office at SCCO.Mailbox@njcourts.gov or 609-421-6100.

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