



NEWS RELEASE

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MoneyGram Child Support Payments Expand to 12 Counties A Convenient Payment Option for Cash Paying Parents

SACRAMENTO – Starting this week, parents in Madera, Marin, Modoc, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Shasta and Siskiyou counties can pay their child support in cash at thousands of MoneyGram locations throughout California. Previously, parents paying cash could only do so by visiting a county or regional local child support agency that accepts in-office payments. Those who stand to benefit the most by paying through MoneyGram are the self-employed, those working seasonal jobs and those who don't engage in traditional banking.

Since the first wave of counties began offering MoneyGram on January 5, there have been 277 child support payments made through the service totaling \$79,811 in child support payments, as of 6 p.m. on Sunday. So, in the first 21 days, including weekends, MoneyGram processed an average of 13 payments and \$3,800 a day on cases serving California children. The payment option is being rolled out to counties in waves with the final wave on February 9.

"We are pleased to be able to expand services and make payments easier for participants," said California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) Director Alisha Griffin. "This is not only a benefit for parents who owe child support, but it is translating into more payments for their children."

There are approximately 6,200 MoneyGram locations in California that provide bill payment services. Payments can be made at 18 retail chains including CVS, Wal-Mart, Albertsons, Lucky, Raley's/Bel Air, Food Maxx, 7-Eleven and others.

To make a payment through MoneyGram, parents will need their personal Participant Identification Number (PAR ID) and the group "Receive Code 14630." MoneyGram charges child support customers a \$1.99 convenience fee. For many, that is less than the cost of the gas needed to drive to a child support office. Payments can take up to three days to post, so parents are advised to plan accordingly.

Child support payments may also be made online, by phone and by mail. In-person payments are available at the local child support offices that accept payments. Fees are not charged for using these payment options.

When the state tested the MoneyGram service in a pilot program with the Contra Costa County Department of Child Support Services earlier this year, 127 child support payments totaling \$38,228 were made through MoneyGram in just six weeks. In 13 of those transactions, it was the first time a payment had been made in more than five months. Six of those transactions were made on cases that had not received a payment in more than a year.

DCSS and the 51 local child support agencies operate the second largest child support system in the nation. The department works collaboratively with the local agencies, the courts, county health and human services entities, employers and various state and federal agencies to help parents provide for their children. For information about payment options or to make a payment online, visit www.childsup.ca.gov/PaymentOptions or call 866-901-3212. ###

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