

# PREGNANCY-RELATED EXPENSES

# **Living Infants Fairness and Equality (LIFE) Act**

The LIFE Act amended Georgia law, Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A.) § 19-6-15, to allow an expectant mother to seek reimbursement for direct medical and pregnancy-related expenses from her child's father.

### What expectant parents can do:

- Keep documents, such as medical bills and receipts, related to medical and pregnancy-related pre-birth expenses.
- Seek the assistance of a private attorney: georgialegalaid.org/issues/family-law-and-domestic-violence.

## What the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) can do:

- Establish paternity once your child is born.
  Note: an application for full services and a \$25 fee, if applicable, are required.
- Apply the child support guidelines from the time of birth onward to establish a child support obligation.

#### What DCSS cannot do:

- Accept an application or establish paternity prior to a child's birth.
- Establish or enforce the collection of any pre-birth direct medical and pregnancy-related expenses that accrued prior to birth.
- Enforce the collection of any pre-birth expenses that have been ordered to be paid by the father in a pre-existing order.
- Provide legal advice. Mothers can seek assistance from Atlanta Legal Aid or the Georgia Legal Services Program if they reside outside of metro Atlanta. For more information, visit our website at **childsupport.georgia.gov/legal-resources/pregnancy-related-expenses**.

