

What is Medical Support?

- **Explanation:** Medical Support is a form of child support that ensures the child's healthcare needs are covered. It includes providing health insurance for the child and paying for any uninsured medical expenses.
- **Example:** "Medical support is part of child support that makes sure your child has health insurance and that any medical expenses not covered by insurance are taken care of."

Who is Responsible for Providing Medical Support?

- **Explanation:** Typically, the parent who has access to the most affordable health insurance is required to provide coverage for the child. This is usually the parent who has employer-provided insurance or who can obtain coverage at a reasonable cost.
- **Example:** "If you have health insurance through your job, you might be responsible for providing coverage for your child. If not, the other parent might be required to get insurance."

What Does Medical Support Include?

- **Explanation:** Medical support generally includes two main components:
 - **Health Insurance:** Ensuring that the child has health insurance coverage, either through a parent's employer or a private plan.
 - **Uninsured Medical Expenses:** Covering costs that insurance doesn't cover, such as co-pays, deductibles, dental, vision, and prescription expenses.
- **Example:** "Medical support includes making sure your child has health insurance and helping with any medical bills that insurance doesn't fully cover, like co-pays or prescription costs."

How is Medical Support Determined?

- **Explanation:** The court considers several factors when determining medical support, including the availability of insurance through a parent's employer, the cost of the insurance, and the needs of the child. The court aims to ensure the child has adequate health coverage.
- **Example:** "The court will look at who can get the best and most affordable health insurance for your child. If you both have insurance options, they'll choose the one that makes the most sense for your child's needs."

Reimbursement for Medical Support

- **Explanation:** If one parent pays for health insurance or uninsured medical expenses, the other parent might be required to reimburse them for a portion of those costs, depending on the court order.
- **Example:** "If you're the one paying for your child's health insurance, the other parent might need to pay you back for part of the cost, depending on what the court orders."

Enforcement of Medical Support

- **Explanation:** If a parent fails to provide the required medical support, legal actions can be taken, including wage garnishment or holding the parent in contempt of court.
- **Example:** "If the other parent doesn't follow the court order to provide medical support, the court can enforce it by taking money directly from their paycheck or other legal actions."

Impact on Child Support Payments

- **Explanation:** Medical support obligations can affect the overall child support amount. For example, if one parent is paying for health insurance, the court might adjust the child support amount to reflect that expense.
- **Example:** "If you are paying for your child's health insurance, the court might reduce your monthly child support payment to account for that cost."