

## Understanding the Design and Limitations of this Calculator

*This calculator is designed for:*

- ✓ **Divorce commenced on or after January 25, 2016** when the new Maintenance Guidelines and Child Support Laws take effect
- ✓ Computing **maintenance and child support combined** where the maintenance award is the guideline amount
- ✓ Computing **guideline maintenance only**
- ✓ Computing **child support where maintenance is zero**
- ✓ Computing **child support with a maintenance adjustment different from the guideline** amount of maintenance

*This calculator is not designed for:*

- × **Post-judgment modification applications**, as this tool is only for determining maintenance and child support to be paid pursuant to the final judgment of divorce
- × **Computing guideline maintenance on income above the designated cap** because this must be decided by the court based on the [15 Factors for Post-Divorce Maintenance](#). See DRL 236(B)(6)(d).

## Using the Calculator

- ❖ No special software is required to use this calculator. Work cannot be saved, but you can print it out by pressing Ctrl P or going to Print in your browser. The recommended browser is Internet Explorer.
- ❖ Links (in blue) are provided for certain terms for additional explanation.
- ❖ This calculator does not allow you to save information. Before you begin, you must have the following information, as to both yourself and the person you are getting a divorce from.
  1. Latest income tax return statements
  2. W-2 Statements
  3. Pay stubs
  4. 1099's
  5. Other documentation of income and deductions for Part A
  6. If there are children of the marriage under 21
    - Receipts for the cost of health insurance premiums paid for the children
    - Childcare expenses
    - Educational expenses
- ❖ Before completing each section of the calculator, review the information and then hit Confirm to move to the next section. You may go back to previous sections by scrolling up and hitting the Edit Section button.

## User Input

You must answer questions, fill in dollar amounts, and confirm input where required or the program will not work correctly.

The specific questions that require user input are shown in red in the Calculator.

- Part A-I Itemization of Income and Deductions - Gross Income  
**Line 1: Enter Gross (total) income - REQUIRED** (If no income, enter 0)
  
- Part B Calculation of Post-Divorce Maintenance Award  
**Question: Do you want to calculate guideline maintenance award?** Select Yes or No  
**Yes** = Calculate guideline maintenance but not Child Support  
**Yes** = Calculate guideline maintenance and use that amount to adjust the parties' incomes in the child support sections (Part C)  
**No** = Calculate child support with zero adjustment on parties' incomes  
**No** = Calculate child support with a difference maintenance adjustment  
**Note:** If you answer Yes, proceed to Part B-1 and answer questions on lines 6 and 7 of Part B-1) (STEPS C AND D). If you answer No, Part B will disappear, but you still need to answer questions 6 and 7.
  
- Questions 6 and 7  
Select Yes or No to the questions below. If there are no children of the marriage, answer No to both questions.  
**Question Line 6: STEP C: Is Child Support going to be paid for children of the marriage?**  
**Question Line 7: STEP D: Is the Maintenance Payor the Non-Custodial Parent?**  
**Note:** For child support purposes, one parent is labeled the "custodial parent" and the other parent is labeled the "non-custodial parent" depending on which parent the child(ren) live with more than 50% of the time. If the person with the higher income (Maintenance Payor) is also the non-custodial parent, enter Yes for Question 7. If not, enter No. If the child lives with both parents equally, enter Yes for Question 7 because the party with the higher income will be deemed the non-custodial parent.
  
- After confirming maintenance Section B, to view child support questions, answer Yes to the question.  
**Question: "Are there children of the marriage?"**
  
- Part C-I Annual Child Support Calculation  
**Line 5: Enter number of children.**
  
- Part C-III-A Mandatory Add-On Expenses - Child Care Expenses  
**Line 1: Enter annual cost of childcare.** If none, you must enter 0.
  
- Part C-III-B Mandatory Add-On Expenses – Health Care Expenses  
**Line 5: Enter annual cost of health insurance premiums for the children.** If none, enter 0.  
**Question Line 6: Does the NCP provide health insurance?** Answer Yes or No.

## Important Notes and Helpful Links

- ❖ See the [Court's Divorce Resources](#) for accompanying Maintenance and Child Support Worksheets and other helpful tools and a downloadable Excel version of the calculator.
- ❖ If combined income is above the child support cap, Part C-I-Line 8 will appear. This section is for information only and will not be entered into totals. The court may decide to use the percentages in this section or the [10 Child Support Adjustment Factors](#).
- ❖ When determining Basic Child Support, If the poverty adjustment applies in the Low Income Exemptions section (Part C-II, Line 4a), the final award amount in Part C-IV will not include Mandatory Add-On Expenses (Part C-III) and that section will not appear. The Poverty Level adjustment occurs when the NCP Income (Part C-II, Line 1) minus the Basic Child Support Obligation (Part C-II, Line 3) is less than the poverty level. For more information, see the [Child Support of Indigent Obligor Act](#).
- ❖ Unless poverty adjustment applies, the final NCP Child Support Obligation in Part C-IV includes the Mandatory Add-On Expenses in Part C-III. However, if the Self-Support Adjustment applies (Part C-II, Line 4b), the court has discretion whether to include it in the final award. The Self-Support Reserve adjustment occurs when the NCP Income (Part C-II, Line 1) minus the Basic Child Support Obligation (Part C-II, Line 3) is equal to or greater than the poverty level but less than the Self-Support Reserve. For more information, see the [Child Support of Indigent Obligor Act](#).
- ❖ Questions about this Calculator should be sent to [NYMatCalc@nycourts.gov](mailto:NYMatCalc@nycourts.gov).