

How does the CSEA deal with domestic violence issues?

Most victims of domestic violence both want and need the non-custodial parent to pay child support, but are afraid to seek it due to retaliation on the part of the batterer. Most victims state that they want to avoid any further contact or entanglement with the abuser and this is certainly understandable.

Although the Butler County CSEA is required by law to contact the non-custodial parent in order to secure child support payments, there are safety barriers in place that protect the confidentiality of one's specific personal information, i.e. residence, place of employment, phone number, etc.

When the CSEA determines that there is reasonable evidence that a client is subject to family violence or believes that the release of information will result in violence, the CSEA will flag that case with a family violence indicator. The Ohio Administrative Code outlines what constitutes reasonable evidence to include a family violence indicator. The indicator notifies the CSEA caseworker of the confidential nature of the case and additional procedures that the agency needs to follow.

If a case is exceptionally critical and there is imminent danger, the agency's executive director will be notified. The agency deals with these types of cases on an individual basis according to their specific needs.

The Butler County CSEA will do everything within its power and legal right to protect one's confidentiality to help ensure safety. Please note that our agency is in no way a substitute for seeking the help and advice of law enforcement, victim advocacy, a protection order, and/or shelter for you and your children.

If domestic violence is a concern for you in regards to seeking child support, please call customer service at (513) 887-3362 for further assistance.

Reference: Ohio Administrative Code 5101:12-1-20.1 and 5101:12-10-20