

Your Child Assistance

Québec 

Financial assistance for all families

Child assistance is one of the most important measures in Québec's family policy to financially assist families. It includes the **child assistance payment** and the **supplement for handicapped children**.

Regardless of their income, 868 000 Québec families with children under 18 share over 2,06 billion \$ in indexed, tax-free child assistance.

Through child assistance, the government contributes to making Québec a world leader in aiding families.

How is the amount you receive calculated?

The amount of your child assistance payment is calculated based on **four criteria**:

- the number of dependent children under the age of 18 living with you;
- the number of children in shared custody;
- your family income;
- your conjugal status (with or without a spouse).

! The amount of your payment is indexed in January of each year.

Did you know...

The family policy is made of three fundamental components which help parents better balance family and professional responsibilities:

- **child assistance;**
- **the Québec Parental Insurance Plan;**
- **a network of childcare services.**

To whom is payment made?

Child assistance payments are made to only one person in a family. Spouses can decide who will receive the payments for all the children in the family. To request a change of beneficiary, please download the appropriate form on our Web site.

Quarterly or monthly payments?

Child assistance payments are made four times a year, in **July, October, January** and **April** on the **first working day of each quarter**.

If you would rather receive your payments every month, you can apply for a change in payment frequency by Internet or telephone.

Direct deposit: sign up now

Like over 600 000 other families, take advantage of the benefits of direct deposit. At the same time, you will be making a good choice for the environment.

Sign up now for direct deposit, by Internet or by telephone.

Don't forget...

If your family situation changes, notify us

You must notify us of any change in your family situation. The Régie needs this information in order to calculate the amounts to which you are entitled. To find out how to notify us of a change, please visit our Web site.

However, **when a child is born, you do not have to file an application with the Régie.** The child is automatically signed up for child assistance when you report the birth to the Registrar of Civil Status.

Shared custody

In cases of shared custody, child assistance payments are made to both parents, according to the payment frequency (quarterly or monthly) chosen by each parent.

The Régie considers that a child is in shared custody when the child lives alternately with each parent between 40% and 60% of the time each month. The amount paid to each parent is equal to **half of the amount of the child assistance that would have been paid** if the child were not in shared custody.

! Please note that you must notify the Régie if you have shared custody of your children.

Don't forget your income tax returns

In order for the Régie to be able to determine the amount to which you are entitled, you and your spouse must file Québec income tax returns each year, even if one or both of you have no income to report. Revenu Québec will provide the Régie with the information regarding your family income, as well as your conjugal status on 31 December of the reference year.

To avoid delays, you must file your Québec income tax return by 30 April of each year.



Handicapped children

The supplement for handicapped children is given to parents of a child under age 18 who has a handicap that significantly limits him or her in carrying out daily activities for a period expected to last for at least one year. The amount is the same for everyone, regardless of the child's handicap or family income. For example, in 2011, it is 174 \$ a month.

To find out the eligibility requirements and how to file an application for the supplement, please refer to the "Children" section of our Web site.

Our commitments

The Régie des rentes du Québec is committed to maintaining the quality of its services in order to meet client expectations. To find out more about our commitments, consult the Service Statement on our Web site.

How to reach us

For more information on child assistance, contact the Régie des rentes du Québec:



By Internet

rrq.gouv.qc.ca/enfants



By telephone

Québec region: **418 643-3381**

Montréal region: **514 864-3873**

Toll-free: **1 800 667-9625**



TTY

Service for the hearing impaired

Toll-free: **1 800 603-3540**

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