



Working out a multi-case allowance

If you or the other parent have two or more child support cases and you want to use the child support worksheet to estimate your child support payments, follow the steps outlined below.

This allowance reflects the costs of raising children of different ages and in different families, and ensures parents have enough money to pay child support for all their child support children. The multi-case allowance applies to all parents who have more than one child support case, whether they pay or receive child support, or both.

Marianne

To help you understand the process we'll look at the example of Marianne, who pays child support for four children in two families. Marianne doesn't have any relevant dependent children, and her adjusted taxable income is \$79,422.

Work out the multi-case cost for each child support child

Step 1: The parent's income

Step	Action	You or other parent	Example
1	Parent's adjusted taxable income		Marianne's adjusted taxable income is \$79,422
2	Deduct the self-support amount		Deduct \$18,252*
3	Deduct the relevant dependent child allowance (if applicable)		Marianne doesn't have any relevant dependent children, so the allowance is \$0
4	Income left over		\$79,422 - \$18,252* = \$61,170



Step 2: The cost of the child support children

At this stage, you work out how much it costs to raise each child support child. You calculate this for each child separately. Follow this process for each child support child. Base the calculations on the age of the child you are working the costs out for.

Step	Action	You or other parent	Example
1	Identify the relevant Cost of children table, based on the age of the child		Marianne wants to work out the cost of her child Andrew, who is 11. She uses Table A.
2	Identify which income row to use, based on your income from Step 1		Marianne uses the income row '\$54,757-\$82,134'
3	Identify which column to use, based on the total number of your child support children (not relevant dependent children)		Marianne uses the column '3 or more children'
4	Total costs of all your child support children (as if they are all the same age)		The total cost of all Marianne's child support children if they were all the same age as Andrew is \$16,114



Step 3: Each child's multi-case cost

We now work out each child's individual multi-case cost. Repeat this step for every child support child.

Step	Action	You or other parent	Example
1	Take the total costs of all your child support children from Step 2		The total costs of Marianne's child support children are \$16,114
2	Divide the total costs by the total number of child support children		Marianne has 4 child support children
3	Multi-case cost of the child		The multi-case cost for Andrew is \$4,029

Work out the multi-case allowance for each child support case

This allowance sets aside the maximum amount of child support you could be required to pay in your other cases, before care levels and the other parents' incomes are taken into account. It ensures you have enough money to pay child support for all your children. For each case, add together the multi-case costs of the children in the other case/s.

Child's name	Multi-case costs for each child (from Step 3)				
	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5
Total multi-case allowance for each case					



Work out the multi-case cap

The cap ensures the paying parent's level of care of the child support children is taken into account and that a parent will not pay more in child support than they would pay if all the children were living in the same household. The multi-case cap only applies to a person who is the paying parent. For each child, follow these steps.

Step	Action	Paying parent	Example
1	Cost percentage of the child		Marianne has regular care of her child Andrew, so her cost percentage is 24%
2	Deduct the cost percentage from 100%		24% is deducted from 100%, leaving 76%
3	The child's multi-case cost (from Step 3)		Andrew's multi-case cost is \$4,029
4	Multiply the child's multi-case cost by the percentage left over at number 2		$\$4,029 \times 76\%$
5	Multi-case cap		Marianne's multi-case cap for Andrew is \$3,062

Next steps

- 1 Work out the multi-case cap for the children in each case.
- 2 Transfer this amount to the child support worksheet.
- 3 The lesser of the multi-case cap and the child support payable is the amount you may have to pay as child support for that case.