

UNREASONABLE HEALTH INSURANCE COST

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Once you enter your case information, number of kids, who claims which kids, filing status, income, etc., go to the “Medical” screen. See the image below. Iowa Support Master tells you the reasonable yearly cost for each parent. Read 252E.1A(3) to understand how reasonable cost is calculated.

	Non Custodial	Custodial
Cost of Child's Health Insurance	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Yearly Reasonable Cost	\$3,250.00	\$1,500.00
Cash Medical Support	3250.00	0.00

In the image above, the yearly reasonable cost is indicated in green. If, for example, we indicate that NCP pays \$3,300 per year as cost of health insurance, that is \$50 more than what is “reasonable”, and Iowa Support Master will give you the red pop-up “Warning...” notification. That notification includes a help link. Click on it for helpful instructions.

If the NCP is “low-income”, they will not be required to contribute toward the cost of covering the kids. See Guidelines Rule 9.12(4) “Area A” Low-income is a preliminary net income of 0 - \$1,150 per month. Support Master will tell you if they fall in the shaded area.

If the NCP is not low-income, Iowa Support Master will push whatever number you enter through to Form 1 and apportion it. You could enter \$10,000 as annual cost and the program will push it through. The program also provides a notification on Form 1 that the amount entered is unreasonable and tells you the amount that would be reasonable.

When faced with an unreasonable cost notification, it comes down to how to resolve the issue. Everybody, including the judge, should want the kids to be covered. If the number isn’t that much beyond what is reasonable, perhaps the party who can object won’t. 252E.1A(3)(a)(2) allows a parent object to an unreasonable cost.

If a party objects, you will most likely need to negotiate a resolution or simply let the Court decide it. Options:

- Agree on an amount for cost of health insurance.
- Adjust child support (variation).
- Adjust who claims which kids to make up for the difference.
- Change the percentage share of uncovered health expenses.
- Go to the courthouse and let a judge decide.