

## How to Use the Child Care Variance Feature of Iowa Support Master

by Aft & Wilson Publishing

Step 1: Enter all data into Iowa Support Master before you enter the cost of child care. Number of children, income, tax information. Leave cost of child care as your last entry.

Step 2: Go to “Other Deductions” and enter the cost of child care on the “Custodial” side. Here is an example of what the screen will look like once you enter the number (so long as the NCP is not low-income/shaded area of the guidelines support tables).

**CHILD CARE**  
Enter child care costs for children in this case

	Non Custodial	Custodial
Child Care Expenses	<input type="text"/>	6000.00
Number of Children in Childcare	0	1
Yearly 3rd Party Reimbursements	<input type="text"/>	? <input type="text"/>

**NEW**

**Variance changes in the 2022 Child Support Guidelines**

CP claiming \$6,000.00 yearly child care expenses increases child support \$340.44 yearly. You may wish to request a variance pursuant to rule 9.11A. The NCP's proportional share would be \$4,194.22.

[Calculate Variance Here](#)      [Click for help on the new Child Care Variance](#)

In our example, based on all the information we entered in our sample case, the custodial parent pays \$6,000 per year for child care for 1 child. This increases NCP’s child support obligation by \$340.44 for the year (\$28.37 per month).

The net result is that the custodial parent pays \$471.63 and the NCP pays \$28.37 per month toward the cost of child care. The red text also tells you what the NCP’s proportional share of the \$6,000 per year cost would be. In our example, \$4,194.22.

Step 3: Click on “Calculate Variance Here” to go to our variance calculator.

**Child Care Variance**

NCP's guideline amount of monthly child support	\$1,731.92
Amount of variance for monthly child care expenses agreed upon or requested	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
Adjusted amount of monthly child support	\$1,731.92

Help
Remove and Return
Accept and Return

Child Care Proportional Share  
New in the 2022 Child Support Guidelines

Child care expense \$6,000.00 yr | \$500.00 mo for 1 child  
Without child care, adjusted net monthly income and percentage:

NCP:	\$5,975.08	69.9036%
CP:	\$2,572.52	30.0964%

Without tax credits/reimbursements

CP's proportion of child care:	\$500.00 X 30.0964%	= \$150.48 monthly
NCP's proportion of child care:	\$500.00 X 69.9036%	= \$349.52 monthly

Tax Credits/Reimbursements: \$1,125.00 yearly | \$93.75 monthly

CP's proportion of child care:	\$406.25 X 30.0964%	= \$122.27 monthly
NCP's proportion of child care:	\$406.25 X 69.9036%	= \$283.98 monthly

When the CP files their tax return, claiming child care expenses, they may receive tax credits. Support Master will calculate this for you. If they qualify, this will increase their income which, of course, affects the child support amount. It also changes the proportional shares.

Pursuant to the rules, if you request a variance, you are not allowed to claim the costs of child care as a deduction to determine net income/proportional shares. When you remove the child care deduction, this also removes the tax credits that boost the income of the custodial parent. Proportional shares gives the court guidance in determine how much, if any, variance should be awarded.

In the sample above, you will see this "Tax Credits/Reimbursements: \$1,125 yearly/\$93.75 monthly". This tells us that when the CP files their tax return, they will be eligible to receive \$1,125 in tax credits for the year. When you remove the deduction of child care expenses on the CP side, because they are seeking a variance, you also are removing this tax benefit. We add it back in and reduce the child care expense by that amount. This information is then provided to you as shown.

CP pays \$500 per month but receives \$93.75 in tax credits because of this. Net result \$406.25. In our example and you represent the NCP, in a variance request case, you might want to argue these numbers. NCP's exposure is \$283.98 per month in variance (the rules do not mandate a ceiling).

Without tax credits/reimbursements added back in, you can see the numbers are quite higher. NCP's exposure goes up to \$349.52 per month.

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