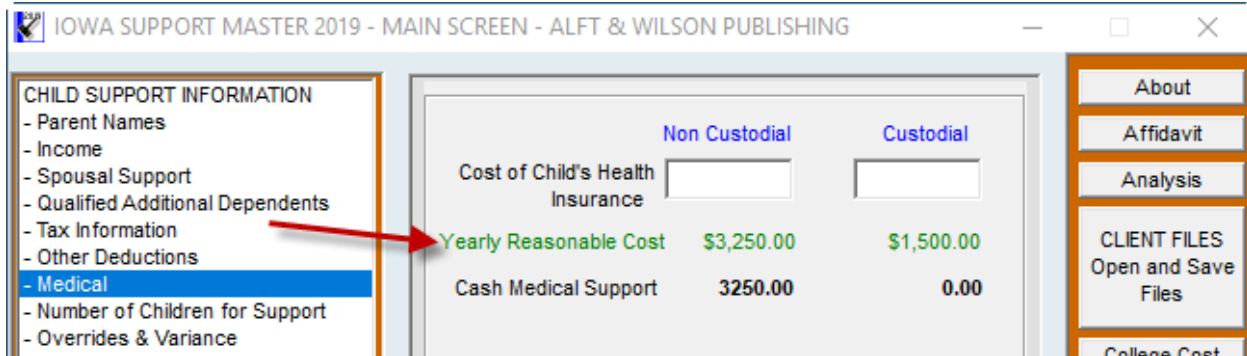


UNREASONABLE HEALTH INSURANCE COST – WHAT TO DO

by Alft & Wilson Publishing – Iowa Support Master

Enter all information in ISM leaving “Medical” as the last screen. In the “Medical” screen, ISM displays the reasonable yearly cost for each parent. (Iowa Code 252E.1A(3) explains how to calculate what is reasonable.)



	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 the children are not covered, the NCP number is what cash medical will cost the NCP). In this example, if we enter \$3,300 as cost on the NCP side, that is \$50 more than what is “reasonable”. Support Master will give you the red pop-up “Warning...” notification. That notification includes a help link. (Click on it for instructions.) If you enter \$1,600 on the CP side, that is unreasonable.

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 - \$1,100 per month. Support Master will tell you if they fall in the shaded area look on Form 1 in the medical expense field.

Provided 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 to page 3 of Form 1. The program also provides a notification on Form 1 that the amount entered is unreasonable and tells you the amount that would be reasonable. If the NCP is low-income, you can enter \$100 and it will not be apportioned per the guidelines.

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

If a party objects, either you negotiate a resolution or 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.