

Mandatory Medical Support Order

Tex. Fam. Code § 154.181. MEDICAL SUPPORT ORDER.

(a) The court shall render an order for the medical support of the child as provided by this section and Section 154.182 in:

- (1) a proceeding in which periodic payments of child support are ordered under this chapter or modified under Chapter 156;
- (2) any other suit affecting the parent-child relationship in which the court determines that medical support of the child must be established, modified, or clarified; or
- (3) a proceeding under Chapter 159.

Tex. Fam. Code § 154.183. MEDICAL SUPPORT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DUTY OF OBLIGOR.

(a) An amount that an obligor is ordered to pay as medical support for the child under this chapter, including the costs of health insurance coverage or cash medical support under Section 154.182:

- (1) is in addition to the amount that the obligor is required to pay for child support under the guidelines for child support;
- (2) is a child support obligation; and
- (3) may be enforced by any means available for the enforcement of child support, including withholding from earnings under Chapter 158.

(b) If the court finds and states in the child support order that the obligee will maintain health insurance coverage for the child at the obligee's expense, the court shall increase the amount of child support to be paid by the obligor in an amount not exceeding the actual cost to the obligee for maintaining health insurance coverage, as provided under Section 154.182(b-1).

(b) If the court finds and states in the child support order that the obligee will maintain health insurance coverage for the child at the obligee's expense, the court may increase the amount of child support to be paid by the obligor in an amount not exceeding the total expense to the obligee for maintaining health insurance coverage. In calculating the total expense to the obligee for maintaining health insurance for the child under this subsection, if the obligee has other minor dependents covered under the same health insurance plan, the court shall divide the total expense to the obligee for the insurance by the total number of minor dependents, including the child, covered under the plan.

(c) As additional child support, the court shall allocate between the parties, according to their circumstances, the reasonable and necessary health care expenses of a child that are not reimbursed by health insurance or are not otherwise covered by the amount of cash medical support ordered under Section 154.182(b)(3).