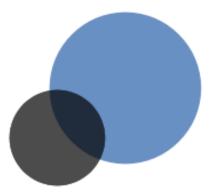
Child Support: Brief Comparative Legal Overview

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Child Maintenance

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Abstract

The paper presents a brief picture of the position in the UK before the introduction of the child support scheme; the origins of specific child support guidelines in the US; the failed UK attempt to produce its own system, and why it may have failed; and its new direction; and finally the contrast with the Australian and Canadian schemes, and also with the continental European approach.

Questions addressed

- 1. Do we want it to play an important role in relieving child poverty?
- 2. Do we want it to reinforce moral obligations?
- 3. Do we want it to relieve the state's social welfare budget?
- 4. Do we want it to provide a framework for assisting parents to share some resources after separation on a co-operative basis?
- 5. Do we want it to reflect a fair allocation of resources between separated parents, and, if so, should the community's sense of what would be fair be the basis on which mandatory rules should be drawn up?
- 6. Do we want to reduce the load on the court system?

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