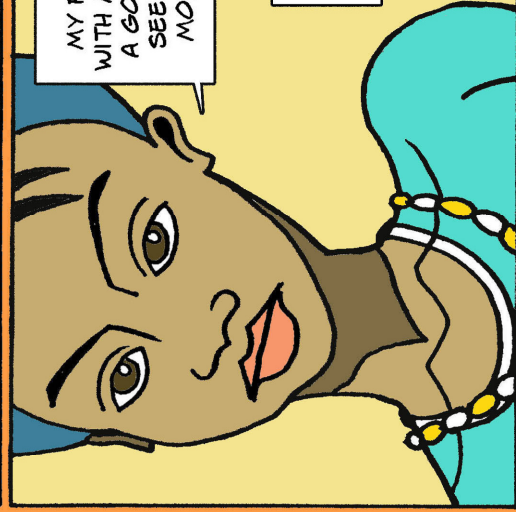
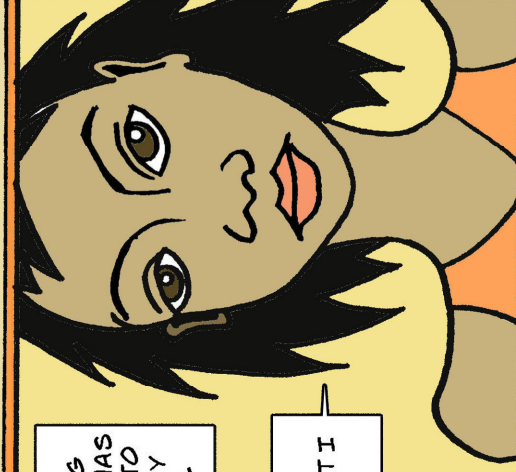


Can a child claim maintenance?



MY FATHER HAS DIED AND I AM LIVING WITH MY GRANDMOTHER. MY MOTHER HAS A GOOD JOB BUT SHE NEVER COMES TO SEE ME AND SHE NEVER GIVES US ANY MONEY. WE ARE REALLY SUFFERING.

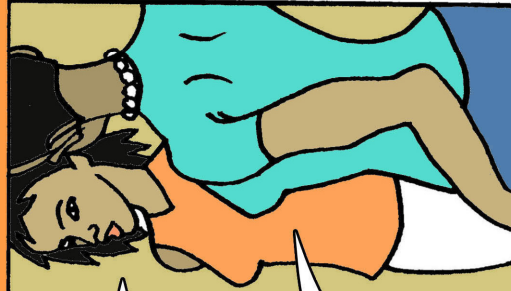


YOUR STORY MAKES ME SAD. BUT I THINK I HAVE A SOLUTION.



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN CLAIM MAINTENANCE BY YOURSELF? YOU DON'T NEED AN ADULT TO DO IT FOR YOU.

YOU MEAN I CAN GO TO COURT ON MY OWN AND ASK FOR MAINTENANCE FOR MYSELF?



YES, THE LAW SAYS THAT PARENTS HAVE A DUTY TO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. YOUR MOTHER SHOULD BE PAYING MAINTENANCE TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER. YOUR GRANDMOTHER CAN GO TO THE MAGISTRATES COURT TO APPLY FOR A MAINTENANCE ORDER, OR YOU CAN GO YOURSELF.



HELLO, I WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A MAINTENANCE ORDER.



OK. I WILL HELP YOU FILL IN ALL THE FORMS. I AM GLAD THAT YOU HAVE COME BECAUSE ALL CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO MAINTENANCE.

HOW LONG MUST A PARENT PAY MAINTENANCE FOR A CHILD?

MAINTENANCE IS USUALLY PAID UNTIL THE CHILD REACHES THE AGE OF 18, UNLESS THE CHILD BECOMES SELF-SUPPORTING AT AN EARLIER AGE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE CHILD LEAVES SCHOOL AND GETS A JOB, THE COURT MAY ORDER THAT THE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS SHOULD STOP. BUT IF THE CHILD IS STILL STUDYING, THE COURT MAY ORDER THAT THE PAYMENTS SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE CHILD TURNS 21.



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