

**§552. Nonsupport of dependents**

1. A person is guilty of nonsupport of dependents if he knowingly fails to provide support which he is able by means of property or capacity for labor to provide and which he knows he is legally obliged to provide to a spouse, child or other person declared by law to be his dependent.  
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

2. As used in this section, "support" includes but is not limited to food, shelter, clothing and other necessary care.  
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

2-A. Prosecution may be brought in any venue where either the dependent or the defendant resides.  
[PL 1981, c. 657, §1 (NEW).]

3. Nonsupport of dependents is a Class E crime.  
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW).]

4. A person placed on probation as a result of a violation of this section may be placed under the supervision of the Department of Health and Human Services. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the period of probation may extend to the time when the youngest dependent attains the age of 18.  
[PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1975, c. 293, §4 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 657, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.