

FOSTER CAREGIVER RIGHTS AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

IMPORTANT PAYMENT INFORMATION FOR FOSTER CAREGIVERS

READ THE INFORMATION ON THESE PAGES CAREFULLY. IT WILL ENABLE YOU TO UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE RECEIVING FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANY OF THE ITEMS, ASK YOUR FOSTER CARE ELIGIBILITY TECHNICIAN (ET) FOR AN EXPLANATION.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A FOSTER CAREGIVER

- To have your foster child's eligibility for foster care payments determined promptly.
- To be notified in writing when the foster care payment is reduced or discontinued.
- To be served without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, political affiliation, marital status, sex, age or disability, and to file a complaint should you feel that you or your foster child have been discriminated against.
- To discuss any action regarding the foster care payment with the foster care ET any time you are dissatisfied.
- To request a state hearing if you are dissatisfied with any action taken on your foster child's foster care application or payments.
- To be treated with courtesy and consideration.
- To have your records and your foster child's records kept confidential.
- To be informed of what your rights and reporting responsibilities are.

<input type="checkbox"/> West Corridor (951) 358-3574 11070 Magnolia Ave. Ste. A Riverside, CA. 92505	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanency & Guardianship (951) 358-3886 11070 Magnolia Ave. Ste. A Riverside, CA. 92505	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth and Family Resources Kin-GAP (951) 358-7778 10769 Hole St. Ste 110 Riverside, CA. 92505
<input type="checkbox"/> Southwest (951) 791-3235 547 N. San Jacinto Hemet, CA. 92543	<input type="checkbox"/> Desert (760) 863-7631 48-113 Jackson St. Indio, CA. 92201	<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-County (951) 922-7978 901 E. Ramsey Banning, CA. 92220
<input type="checkbox"/> Valley (951) 413-5176 23119 Cottonwood A-100 Moreno Valley, CA. 92553	<input type="checkbox"/> Metro (951) 358-3453 3610 Central Ave. 5 th Fl. Riverside, CA. 92506	

CHILD'S NAME:		C-IV CASE NUMBER:
CAREGIVER'S NAME:		NOTICE DATE:
FOR QUESTIONS CALL ET:	C-IV WORKER ID:	ET PHONE #:

SEE PAGE 2 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

YOUR REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES AS A FOSTER CAREGIVER

WHILE YOUR FOSTER CHILD'S FOSTER CARE PAYMENT APPLICATION IS BEING PROCESSED, OR WHILE YOU ARE RECEIVING FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS FOR THE CHILD, YOU MUST REPORT CHANGES TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES FOSTER CARE ET IMMEDIATELY (WITHIN 5 DAYS). EXAMPLES OF CHANGES YOU MUST REPORT ARE:

- *Your foster child receives, or you receive on behalf of the foster child, money from: relatives, Social Security, Veteran's Benefits, SSI/SSP Benefits or any other source. Any non-recurring amount that exceeds the child's monthly foster care payment is subject to the lump sum income rule. (See page 3).*
- *You apply for any available income your foster child may be eligible to receive, such as Social Security, Veteran's Benefits, SSI/SSP Benefits, etc.*
- *Your foster child begins receiving SSI or aid payments from another program. The child may **not** receive full foster care payments and payments from SSI or another aid program at the same time.*
- *Your foster child's income increases, decreases, starts or stops.*
- *Your foster child begins or stops work or training.*
- *Your foster child has his/her sole **or** joint property: a bank or savings account, trust fund, cash, real property, or personal property. A foster child may retain up to \$10,000 of non-exempt property; all property must be reported regardless of value.*
- *Your foster child receives or disposes of real estate or personal property, including purchase or sale of homes, vehicles, etc.*
- *Your foster child (age 16 or over) begins or drops out of school or training or is not attending on a full time basis.*
- *Your foster child moves out of your home, runs away or returns to your home.*
- *Your foster care license is revoked or closed.*
- *You are granted Legal Guardianship, or Legal Guardianship is rescinded.*
- *A parent of the foster child resides in or moves into your home.*
- *You intend to visit outside the county or state for more than 30 days.*
- *If you move to a new address:*
 - ◊ *and are a licensed caregiver, notify your social worker, ET, and Community Care Licensing (CCL) immediately. You may not be eligible to receive foster care payments for your foster child until you are re-licensed at your new address.*
 - ◊ *and you are a Relative Caregiver or a Non-Related Extended Family Member, notify your social worker and ET immediately---you may not be eligible to receive foster care payments for your foster child until you are re-assessed and approved at your new address.*
 - ◊ *and you are a Non-Related Legal Guardian notify your social worker and ET immediately.*
- *Timely reporting of a change of address is essential to reduce the interruption of foster care payments.*
- *Foster care payments are **not** forwarded by the United States Post Office, even if you have put in a change of address request at the post office.*
- *If you are paid for more days than the foster child stayed in your home, you may be required to repay the amount you were overpaid.*

If you receive a Medi-Cal card for a child no longer in your home, please return it to any of the Foster Care Offices listed on page 1.

If you are not sure that a change should be reported, contact the Foster Care ET to determine what effect, if any, the change will have on your foster child's application or foster care payment.

SEE PAGE 1 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT: YOUR RIGHTS OR WHERE TO CALL

IMPORTANT

LUMP SUM INCOME RULE

IF YOUR FOSTER CHILD RECEIVES LUMP SUM INCOME, HIS/HER CASH AID MAY STOP

Lump sum income is money your foster child receives, or that is available to him/her

- One time only, or
- Once in a while.

Examples of lump sum income include but are not limited to:

- Retroactive benefits or payments (such as social security income)
- Insurance settlements or court awards
- Inheritance

THE LUMP SUM RULE:

If a foster child receives a lump sum of money while receiving foster care payments:

- His/her foster care payment may change or stop,
- He/she will have to use the lump sum money for living expenses instead of the foster care payment,
- The more lump sum income he/she receives, the longer he/she will have use the lump sum for living expenses, and
- The longer he/she cannot receive foster care payments.

Period of ineligibility:

- The period of time your foster child cannot receive cash aid because he/she received lump sum income is called the “period of ineligibility”.
- A “period of ineligibility” is one month or longer.
- Your foster child will not be able to receive foster care payments before the period of ineligibility ends, even if he/she has spent all of the lump sum income.

Here’s how we figure the period of ineligibility:

We divide the amount of the lump sum income by the total monthly foster care payment. For example, if the lump sum is \$4,000, and the monthly foster care cost is \$400, the period of ineligibility will be 10 months.

$$\$4,000 \div \$400 = 10 \text{ months}$$

Changing the period of ineligibility:

After the period of ineligibility starts, tell the county if your foster child:

- Has an emergency,
- Has medical expenses

The county will then check to see if the period of ineligibility can be shortened.

The period of ineligibility may be shortened due to these circumstances or if there is an increase in the need standard due to a rate increase or placement change. The period of ineligibility is never lengthened due to a change in need. If you have any questions about the lump sum rule, contact your Foster Care ET.

SEE PAGE 1 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT: YOUR RIGHTS OR WHERE TO CALL