

Guidance Document for the Continuation of Child Support Services After the Termination of the Foster Care

Summary:

1. If a parent received child support services prior to the child(ren)'s placement in foster care (FC) and there are still support arrears/past due support owed to that parent, it is appropriate to send a *Continuation of Child Support Services* notice.
2. If the child resides with one parent ("Parent A") after discharge from foster care, and if there is an order of current support payable by the other parent ("Parent B"), then after payments are redirected to Parent A, it is appropriate to send a *Continuation of Child Support Services* notice to Parent A.
 - a. This applies in multiple child situations if the order for current support is payable on behalf of only the child(ren) residing with Parent A as the post-discharge custodian. That is, the order for current support does not include support for a child in another household; a child receiving Temporary Assistance (TA) and/or Medical Assistance (MA); or a child still in FC. If the order is on behalf of child(ren) still in FC, receiving TA and/or MA, or not residing with Parent A, child support services would not continue unless or until a court allocates the support obligation.
 - b. In multiple child situations, it is possible that both parents could have child support obligations and each have post-discharge custody of a child. A *Continuation of Child Support Services* notice should be sent to each parent if the respective order for current support in each household:
 - is payable on behalf of only the child(ren) residing with the post-discharge custodian; and
 - does not include support for a child receiving TA and/or MA; or a child still in FC.

Chart 1: Child Support Account Involves Only One (1) Child

After Discharge from Foster Care, the Child:	Status of Existing Support Orders	Continuation of Services Notice Required?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resides with a third party; • Is emancipated; • Resides with his or her intact family; or • Is a minor child head of household 	Parent A was receiving child support services before the child went into foster care, and Parent A is owed support arrears/past due support by Parent B.	Yes – to Parent A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resides with a third party; • Is emancipated; • Resides with his or her intact family; or • Is a minor child head of household 	Any scenario other than the specific order status described in the box above.	No
Resides with Parent A	The order is payable by Parent B; the CSEU has redirected payments to Parent A	Yes – to Parent A
Resides with Parent A	There is no order payable by Parent B (even if other orders exist; for example, an order payable by a stepparent or Parent A)	No

Chart 2: Child Support Account Involves Two (2) or More Children

Child 1	Child 2	Status of Existing Support Orders	Continuation of Services Notice Required?
Is discharged from foster care, and lives in the same household as Child 2	Is discharged from foster care, and lives in the same household as Child 1	Follow Chart 1	Follow Chart 1
Remains in foster care	Resides with Parent A	There is an order on behalf of (o/b/o) Child 2 only that is payable to Parent A by Parent B; the CSEU has redirected payments to Parent A	Yes – to Parent A
Remains in foster care	Resides with Parent A	The order is payable to Parent A o/b/o both children (i.e., the order is unallocated)	No
Remains in foster care	Does <u>not</u> reside with Parent A (resides anywhere else)	Any existing order(s) would need to be allocated or modified by the court	No
Resides with Parent A	Resides with Parent B	The order is payable by Parent B for support of Child 1 only; the CSEU has redirected payments to Parent A	Yes – to Parent A
Resides with Parent A	Resides with Parent B	The order is payable by Parent A for support of Child 2 only; the CSEU has redirected payments to Parent B	Yes – to Parent B
Resides with Parent A	Resides with Parent B	Unallocated Order	No - any existing order(s) would need to be allocated or modified by the court
Resides with Parent A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resides with a third party; Is emancipated; or Is a minor child head of household 	The order is payable by Parent B for support of Child 1 only; the CSEU has redirected payments to Parent A	Yes – to Parent A
Resides with Parent A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resides with a third party; Is emancipated; or Is a minor child head of household 	Unallocated Order	No - any existing order(s) would need to be allocated or modified by the court