

Child Support and Child Welfare:

CROSS-SYSTEM COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Child support assignment and enforcement for families involved in Title IV-E foster care programs has been shown to delay reunification for children and create barriers to economic mobility for families. It is also administratively burdensome and is not cost-effective for state agencies.

Federal Guidance: Child Welfare Policy Manual Update

Question: Section 471(a)(17) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires title IV-E agencies to “where appropriate” take “all steps” to secure an assignment of the rights to child support for a child receiving title IV-E foster care maintenance payments (FCMPs). How should a title IV-E agency determine when it is “appropriate” to secure an assignment of the rights to child support?

Answer: We are issuing revised policy for title IV-E agencies to define more narrowly “where appropriate” so that the default position in these determinations can be for the title IV-E agency not to secure an assignment of the rights to child support for children receiving title IV-E FCMPs.

Impact of the new guidance: It expands states' flexibility to not pursue child support referrals for IV-E eligible children and encourages states to make system wide changes to more narrowly define when to seek child support.

RESEARCH AND DATA

- [Making parents pay: the unintended consequences of charging parents for foster care](#)
- [Washington's Cost Effectiveness for Foster Care Child Support Cases](#)
- [Child Support and Foster Care: Orange County Department of Child Support Services](#)
- [Child Support Collections to Offset Out of Home Placement Costs: A Study of Cost Effectiveness](#)
- [Child Support Reform Can Help Parents Better Support Their Children During and After the COVID-19 Recession](#)

IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

- [California State Legislation](#)
- [Minnesota State Statute](#)



Contact Us!
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