



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

September 3, 2015

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 15-67

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
 ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
 ALL ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES
 ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
 ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
 ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR NONMINOR DEPENDENT (NMD)
 PARENT IN A SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT LIVING PLACEMENT
 (SILP)

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 2668](#) (CHAPTER 770, STATUTES OF 2014);
 WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTION 11400,
 AMENDING SECTIONS 11465 AND 16501.25 AND ADDING SECTIONS
 16501.26, 16501.27 AND 16501.28 OF THE WIC; [SENATE BILL \(SB\) 500](#)
 (CHAPTER 630, STATUTES OF 2005); [ACL NO. 06-04](#), [ACL NO. 11-77](#)
[AND ACL NO. 14-44](#)

The purpose of this ACL is to provide information regarding the availability of an additional \$200 in addition to the infant supplement paid to NMD parents residing in a SILP upon completion of certain requirements. This extra \$200 payment is similar to the \$200 payment available to a teen parent in a Whole Family Foster Home who enters into a Shared Responsibility Plan (SRP) with the foster parent. Assembly Bill (AB) 2668 created a similar opportunity for a NMD parent living in a SILP to obtain an extra payment by entering into a Parenting Support Plan (PSP) with an identified responsible adult mentor (adult mentor). Please refer to ACL NO. 11-77 for the definition of a SILP and factors to consider when assessing whether a youth is ready or appropriate for a SILP. A NMD parent is a NMD described in subdivision (v) of WIC section 11400, residing in a SILP as defined in subdivision (w) of Section 11400, who is also a parent.

These statutory changes enacted by AB 2668 become effective July 1, 2015. It is the intent of the statute to address the unique challenges of young parents residing in a SILP by providing adequate support and services to preserve and strengthen the family unit. In addition to the payment to the NMD parent, provisions in this statute call for the identification of a responsible adult mentor and the creation of a PSP. The PSP will identify significant supports to assist the NMD parent in developing the skills necessary to provide a safe, stable and permanent home for their child. A NMD parent in a SILP will still be eligible to receive the \$411 Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care infant supplement payment in addition to the \$200 increase in payment that comes from entering into the PSP with an adult mentor.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) convened a workgroup comprised of CDSS personnel and representatives from the County Welfare Director's Association, youth ambassadors and child welfare advocates to review the provisions of AB 2668. As part of that review, the workgroup addressed the question of whether additional criteria should be added to the specified minimum criteria a person must meet in order to serve as an adult mentor to a NMD parent residing in a SILP (WIC 16501.28). The workgroup determined that no additional criteria were needed beyond those provided in statute. Therefore at a minimum, the adult mentor must meet the following criteria under WIC section 16501.27:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Undergo a criminal records check ([Health and Safety Code Section 1522](#))
- Undergo a Child Abuse Central Index Check ([Penal Code Section 11170](#))

A negative result from the criminal records check or Child Abuse Central Index Check, while not desirable, does not mean the adult mentor will automatically be excluded from being a viable candidate; it is another factor to be considered.

The PSP

The PSP is written for the express purpose of identifying additional support and assisting the NMD parent in a SILP in providing the best care plan for their child (WIC 16501.26). This plan should specifically outline the ways in which the adult mentor will assist the NMD parent with regard to the child in addition to identifying supportive services to be offered to the NMD parent. When creating a PSP, it may be helpful to refer to ACL NO. 06-04 which sets forth comparable guidelines regarding the elements to be addressed by a SRP between a minor parent and foster care provider. WIC section 16501.26 lists additional areas that may be addressed by the PSP such as transportation and child care. Enclosure A is an example template the workgroup created for a PSP. Keep in mind, PSP templates may differ from county to county, as each county can elect to develop and implement their own guidelines for a PSP.

When the adult mentor and the NMD have completed the development of a PSP in cooperation with a county social worker or probation worker, the payment to the NMD parent will be increased by an additional \$200. Additional input may be provided by any individuals identified by the NMD parent, the other parent of the child and other extended family members. The PSP should be developed and adopted as soon as practically possible. However, if one or more of the above stakeholders are not available to participate in the development of the plan within the first 30 days of the NMD's request to enter into the plan, the NMD parent and the adult mentor may enter into a plan for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements to receive payment. The PSP may be modified at a later time when the other parties become available. This plan must be provided to the county child welfare agency or probation department and updated as needed to account for the changing needs of the NMD parent's child or any changes in the employment, school or responsibilities of the NMD parent. Additionally, if the NMD parent changes their adult mentor for any reason, a new PSP must be created. It is strongly suggested that counties maintain copies of PSPs in both eligibility and service case records.

Please contact the Foster Care Rates Bureau at (916) 651-9152 for any questions regarding the information in this ACL. Additional information regarding claiming instructions will be forthcoming in a County Fiscal Letter. Should you have any questions regarding claiming, they should be directed to assistance.claims@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosure

c: CWDA
CPOC

Parenting Support Plan – NMD Parent in a SILP (Sample Template)

This Parenting Support Plan (PSP) is intended to empower Nonminor Dependent (NMD) parents in determining what kind of care and guidance they would like to receive from their identified responsible adult mentor (adult mentor). This plan describes the responsibilities of the NMD parent, including the additional supports needed by the adult mentor. This PSP may change at any time based on the growth, development and changing needs of the NMD parent and/or their child. This agreement should be strength-based and flexible. The goal of the PSP is to help the NMD parent develop the skills necessary to provide a safe, stable and permanent home for their child as they move towards full independence and self-sufficiency. Below are *suggested* areas of support between the NMD parent and the adult mentor.

Responsibility for Feeding the Child:

The NMD parent is responsible for feeding their child.

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD parent:

Responsibility for Dressing and Bathing:

The NMD parent is responsible for maintaining child in clean, good fitting clothing that is appropriate for the weather; in addition to ensuring that the child's body and hair is clean throughout the day.

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD parent:

Responsibility for Scheduling Medical Appointments:

The NMD parent is responsible for scheduling medical appointments for their child.

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD Parent:

Responsibility for Transportation to and from Medical Appointments:

The NMD parent is responsible to ensure transportation both to and from medical appointments.

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD Parent:

Responsibility for Purchasing Needed Items Including:

Food - NMD parent provides all food and formula required to maintain a healthy child.

Clothing - NMD parent is responsible for providing sufficient clothing, including diapers, as needed for their child.

Toys and Books - NMD parent is responsible for providing basic age-appropriate toys and books to enrich the intellectual and physical development of the child.

Furniture – NMD parent is responsible for providing an age-appropriate bed and bedding and sufficient storage space for their child's clothing and belongings, separate from bedding and storage provided for the NMD parent.

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD parent:

Responsibility for Child Care:

The NMD parent is responsible for ensuring child care, if needed for NMD to attend school or work.

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD Parent:

Responsibility for Visitation of Child:

Nothing in this PSP can supersede any current Court Order. The NMD parent has the right to choose who may visit their child, except as otherwise provided by Court Order. The adult mentor shall not interfere with visitation, except in circumstances when the safety of the NMD Parent or the child appears to be in question. The NMD parent is responsible to make arrangements for visitation by a non-custodial parent.

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD Parent:

Name of NMD Parent:

Name of NMD Parent's Child:

Name of Adult Mentor:

Responsibility for Discipline of Child:

The NMD parent is responsible to administer age-appropriate discipline for the child.

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD parent:

Miscellaneous Responsibilities or additional supports:

Exceptions, further description or additional supports needed by the adult mentor to assist the NMD parent. Examples may include: emotional support for the NMD parent, support in accessing medically accurate information and support in accessing information, resources and opportunities to help the NMD parent achieve their educational and/or employment goals.

How will issues be addressed when there is a concern or conflict about any of the responsibilities or supports listed in this agreement?

I have participated in the creation of this Parenting Support Plan and agree to abide by this plan.

X

NMD Parent

X

Adult Mentor

X

Social Worker or Probation Officer