



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

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

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



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

October 23, 2014

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 14-78

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL COUNTY IV-D AGENCY DIRECTORS  
 ALL CaIWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
 ALL WELFARE TO WORK COORDINATORS  
 ALL CHILD CARE COORDINATORS  
 ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CaIWORKs) PROGRAM: EXEMPTION OF CHILD-ONLY SAFETY NET AND DRUG/FLEEING FELON CASES FROM CHILD SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

REFERENCE: ACL NOs. 13-70, AND 12-49, ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-08-12, SENATE BILL (SB) 855 (CHAPTER 29, STATUTES OF 2014), MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTIONS 44-111.47, 44-315.311, 44-340.42, 82-500, 82-506.1 82-510, 82-518.2, 82-610, 82-832(i), 82-832(h) AND 82-833, CHAPTER 82-500 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REGULATIONS, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS (W&I) CODE SECTIONS 11251.3 AND 11486.5, FAMILY CODE SECTION 17415

The purpose of this ACL is to provide county welfare departments (CWDs) with new child support (CS) instructions for cases that were moved into the new K1 and 3F aid codes, pursuant to ACL 13-70, dated September 6, 2013. This ACL provides instruction to CWDs regarding how to treat K1/3F cases with respect to the following CS activities:

- Referral to Local Child Support Agencies (LCSAs);
- Assignment of child and spousal support rights;
- Cooperation with LCSAs;
- Completion of CS related forms;
- Non-cooperation sanction and penalties;

- Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) child support collection and “unticking” the CalWORKs/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) clock;
- Treatment of the CS income in the K1/3F grant calculations;
- Application of the CS disregard; and
- Application of potentially available income rules.

Upon receipt of this ACL, CWDs are instructed to exempt CalWORKs Child-only Safety Net and Drug/Fleeing Felon (SN/DFF) K1 and 3F cases from CS requirements as of the date each consortium implemented the new aid codes into their systems (i.e. the date when SN/DFF cases were actually transferred to the new K1/3F aid codes).

The following information is background and context for the aid code changes, as well as the descriptions and definitions of the cases moved into the new K1/3F aid codes. This ACL will provide new instructions regarding CS requirements for the new K1/3F population.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 Appropriation provided Non-Maintenance of Effort (non-MOE) State General Funds (GF) to fund assistance and administrative costs for cases with an un-aided, but federally work eligible adult (single-parent family) or adults (two-parent families). These cases included Safety Net cases and cases in which all adults were excluded due to the adults’ status as a drug felon or fleeing felon pursuant to W&I Code sections 11251.3 and 11486.5, respectively. ACL 13-70 instructed CWDs to move all SN/DFF child-only cases into two new aid codes (K1 and 3F), which are funded with Non-MOE GF. Moving the SN/DFF cases out of the federally funded TANF program and into a new solely state funded program funded entirely by non-MOE GF allows these cases to be excluded from California’s work participation rate (WPR) calculation, thus increasing California’s chances of meeting federal WPR requirements.

## **DEFINITION OF POPULATION**

The following definitions pertain to the populations to be moved into the new aid codes:

**Safety Net** – cases in which all adults have been discontinued from cash aid and removed from the assistance unit (AU) due to reaching the CalWORKs 48-month time limit, as defined in MPP section 82-833.

**Drug Felon** – is an individual who is ineligible for CalWORKs as defined in MPP Section 82-832(j).

**Fleeing Felon** – is an individual who is ineligible for CalWORKs as defined in MPP Section 82-832(h).

**Child-only cases** – in which one parent/caretaker relative is unaided/excluded due to SN/DFF status and the other parent/caretaker relative is also excluded due to their Social Security Income (SSI) or undocumented citizen status.

### **DEFINITION OF AID CODES FOR CalWORKs SAFETY NET CASES OR DRUG/FLEEING FELON CASES**

Both the K1 and 3F aid codes apply to child-only cases, in which at least one child continues to be eligible for CalWORKs cash assistance. The new K1 aid code was established for single-parent/caretaker cases, in which the only parent/caretaker who is mandatorily required to be part of the AU is unaided and excluded from the AU because of reaching his/her 48-month CalWORKs time limit or because of his/her status as an ineligible drug or fleeing felon. The 3F aid code was established for those families in which both mandatorily required parents/caretakers are unaided, and at least one of the parent/caretaker is unaided due to his/her timed-out, drug, or fleeing felon status. The other parent/caretaker may be unaided due to being an ineligible non-citizen or a recipient of Title XIX Social Security Income (SSI.)

### **CHILD SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR K1/3F CASES**

Current state law at Family Code section 17415 and CalWORKs regulations at MPP sections 82-506.1 and 82-510 require that all CalWORKs applicants and recipients must, as a condition of eligibility for cash aid, assign child and spousal support rights to the state and cooperate with CS establishment and enforcement requirements. Family Code also requires that CWDs refer applicant/recipient families to LCSAs for paternity establishment and CS enforcement and collection.

As stated earlier, ACL 13-70, instructed CWDs to move SN/DFP child-only cases out of the TANF program and into state-only funded aid codes in order to help California meet its federal TANF WPR requirement. During implementation of the move-out of these non-TANF families into the new K1/3F aid codes, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and DCSS discovered a conflict between California state law and federal regulations with regard to CS requirements and use of any state-wide automated CS collection system which is federally funded. State law required CWDs to refer all CalWORKs applicants/recipients to LCSAs for paternity establishment and CS enforcement and for these cases to assign their support rights to the state. However, federal regulations prohibit DCSS and LCSAs from opening CS cases for non-TANF families unless the family voluntarily requests CS services from an LCSA.

Federal CS regulations prohibit the following actions:

- Requiring non-TANF cases to assign support rights to the state;
- Turning over any CS collected on behalf of non-TANF families to the state, rather than giving it directly to the family; and
- Using the federally-funded, statewide automated CS collection system to collect CS on behalf of non-TANF aided families.

The passage of Senate Bill 855 on June 20, 2014 resolved the above mentioned conflict between state and federal law regarding CS collection. SB 855 exempts cases in these new aid codes from the referral and CS cooperation requirements.

As a result of federal regulations that do not allow CWDs to require non-TANF families to assign support rights and cooperate with CS requirements, CWDs must take appropriate action to ensure cases in K1 and 3F aid codes are treated appropriately and are not adversely affected. CWDs are no longer allowed to make mandatory referrals of K1 and 3F cases to LCSAs and may no longer require these cases to assign support rights or cooperate with CS requirements as a condition of eligibility for CalWORKs.

For K1/3F cases that already have an existing (open) CS case with the LCSA, the LCSA may continue CS enforcement and collections from the non-custodial parent (NCP) if the family voluntarily wishes to maintain an open CS case; however, any support collected on behalf of the aided children must be passed through to the family directly and not be retained by the State/County to reimburse CalWORKs aid paid.

CWDs are strongly encouraged to have a discussion with each applicant (or recipient who does not have a current open CS case) to highlight the advantages of opening a CS case and the benefits of CS collection. For example, CWDs should explain that receipt of direct CS will mean the family will receive and be able to keep more income. The CDSS is also asking CWDs to provide assistance to clients in seeking Title IV-D services through the LCSAs. Assistance can be defined as telling the client where they need to go to apply for services, helping the family to fill out the necessary forms, making appointments or answering any questions they may have.

### **ASSIGNMENT OF SUPPORT RIGHTS AND COOPERATION WITH LCSAs**

CWDs are instructed to immediately stop requiring cases in aid codes K1/3F from assigning their child and spousal support rights as a condition of eligibility. For current recipients transitioning into the K1/3F aid codes, no action is required, as these individuals have already assigned their rights upon initial application. However, the LCSA and CWD may no longer retain any CS collected on the behalf of the family, but instead must pass through any CS collected directly to the family.

The CW 2.1NA *Notice and Agreement for Child, Spousal and Medical Support* and the CW 2.1Q *Child Support Questionnaire* will no longer be required and should not be used for applicants whose cases will be immediately placed into one of these aid codes unless required by the Medi-Cal program. If at any time the case transfers into another aid code that is not K1/3F, the parent/caretaker relative would at that time be required to complete and sign the two forms.

Because CDSS will not require CWDs to refer cases in the K1/3F aid codes or require these clients to assign their support rights, there will no longer be a requirement to cooperate with the LCSAs in establishing paternity, locating the non-custodial parent and other general cooperation rules. However, as with the assignment of support rights, if at

any time the case reverts to another aid code that is not K1/3F, cooperation requirements will again apply to that case.

### **SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES**

With CDSS no longer requiring referrals to LCSAs, assignment of support rights, and cooperation with LCSAs for the K1/3F cases, CWDs must remove all CS related sanctions and penalties for these cases retroactively, **effective back to June 1, 2014, the month in which SB 855 was enacted.** Because these cases are child-only cases, lifting the sanction for refusal to assign support rights will not increase the grant for the adult's portion.

For cases in which a 25 percent CS penalty was applied for failure to cooperate with CS requirements, the CWD must remove the penalty effective June 1, 2014, pursuant to the statute's enactment. All underpayments issued as a result of removing the sanction or penalty must be used to offset existing overpayments in accordance with MPP section 44-340.42. Adequate and timely notice must be provided. Any remaining underpayment following the offset must be given to the family.

If a case transitions back into a non-K1/3F aid code, the CWDs shall not re-apply the prior sanction or penalty, but must re-initiate CS assignment agreements and cooperation requirements. If the individual refuses to cooperate or assign his/her support rights without good cause when the case is transitioning into the non-K1/3F aid code, the CWD will initiate a **new** sanction or penalty at that time.

The CWD shall add the adult back into the AU effective the first of the month in which the case transitions back into the non-K1/3F aid code, providing the adult has not reached his/her 48-month time limit and is otherwise eligible.

### **DCSS COLLECTION OF CHILD SUPPORT FOR CalWORKs K1/3F CASES**

#### **CalWORKs Families with Existing Child Support Cases**

CalWORKs cases in the K1/3F aid codes that already have an existing, open case with the LCSA will continue to receive CS collection services. The only change for these families will be that any CS collected will be passed through directly to the CalWORKs family and not be retained by the CWD to reimburse aid paid. Previously the family received only the first \$50 each month and the remaining CS collected, if any, was sent to the CWD to reimburse the aid paid to the family. Now, all CS collected will go to the family.

Prior to shifting SN/DFF cases into K1/3F aid codes, CS retained by the CWD would be used to reimburse aid paid to the family, and for each full month of aid that was reimbursed, that month was "unticked" from the adult's CalWORKs 48-month time clock. Under the new policy, since CS collected will no longer be used to reimburse aid paid to the family, the CWD will no longer "untick" an adult's time-on-aid unless arrearages are collected and retained by the CWD that are used to reimburse full months of aid paid to that AU.

New Applicants - Families without Existing (Open) Child Support Cases

New applicants being placed directly into the K1/3F aid codes (such as fleeing felons or previously timed-out adults) and families who have not yet opened a CS case will not receive services from the LCSAs unless they go to the LCSA and voluntarily request CS services. As stated previously, CWDs should encourage these families to apply for services and assist them whenever possible regarding CS services.

For families who have never received public assistance, a \$25 annual fee may be charged for CS administrative services. Families are not required to pay this fee “upfront;” it is deducted later from any CS collected. (Please see ACIN I-08-12 for more information regarding this annual fee.) This annual fee may be waived for families who have previously received public assistance.

**TREATMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT INCOME IN THE K1/3F GRANT CALCULATION**

CalWORKs AUs will be required to report the CS payments they receive in accordance with their CalWORKs and CalFresh income reporting rules. CalFresh Semi-Annual Reporting (SAR) households will be required to report CS received on their SAR 7 report, and CalWORKs Annual Reporting/Child-Only (AR/CO) AUs will be required to report CS received at application and during the annual redetermination. In addition, all AUs will be required to report receipt of direct CS income any time the family’s total monthly income exceeds the Income Reporting Threshold (IRT) if the AU also has earned income.

When a CalWORKs family reports receiving their CS payment directly, the CWD shall determine the amount of the CS income and whether the income is expected to continue at that level. The CWD, along with the AU, must also determine whether the frequency and amount of income can be “reasonably anticipated” under AR/CO reporting rules (see ACL 12-49, page eight for more information regarding reasonably anticipating income in AR/CO cases). If the CS income can be reasonably anticipated and will continue at a level that will render the family financially ineligible (pursuant to MPP section 44-315.311), the CWD must discontinue the AU at the end of the month in which timely and adequate notice can be provided.

If the amount of CS income, along with other income for the AU, will not render the family ineligible, the CWD must determine if the CS can be reasonably anticipated to continue and determine whether the CS income must be used to calculate the grant for the next payment period. To be considered “reasonably anticipated,” the following conditions must apply or the CS income cannot be used in the grant calculation for the upcoming payment period:

- The CWD and recipient must be reasonably certain when the income is expected (date of payment); and
- The amount of income that is expected.

For recipients with open CS cases, the CWD may apply for third party access to the DCSS CS Enforcement System to determine the frequency and amount of CS paid on behalf of the family, and to establish the reasonableness at which the CS can be anticipated (see

attached Child Support Services Letter #08-02 for more information about obtaining access). Cases in which the CS is collected through a withholding or a wage garnishment order can be assumed to be reasonably anticipated to continue unless the AU reports changes in the order or the NCP's employment. If at any time during the payment period the CS payments stop, the recipient can voluntarily report a decrease in income as a mid-period report and the CWD must recalculate the grant according to AR/CO rules.

Once the CS is determined to be reasonably anticipated and countable, the CWD shall disregard the first \$50 of the CS income and count the remaining CS as unearned income against the AU's grant for the upcoming payment period according to AR/CO rules. MPP sections 44-111.47 and 82-518.2 authorize the \$50 disregard for recipients who receive CS paid either through the LCSA or directly from the NCP. If an AU receives more than one CS payment in the same month, the \$50 disregard is applied only once per month regardless of the number of payments received, unless the first payment is less than \$50, in which case an amount up to a total of \$50 for the month is disregarded.

As a reminder, no income disregards (except for the \$50 CS disregard) apply against unearned income. The reasonably anticipated CS income is subtracted dollar for dollar against the AU's grant amount. CWDs can also refer to ACL 12-49 for the treatment of income for AR/CO AUs.

### **APPLYING FOR POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE INCOME**

Pursuant to MPP section 82-610, all CalWORKs applicants and recipients are required to apply for income that is potentially available to them. CWDs are also required to inform applicants/recipients of income that may be available to them, so that the AU may take advantage of additional income to which they may be eligible.

CS income is income that the applicant/recipient may or may not be entitled to receive, depending on whether paternity of the child(ren) has been established or whether there is a court order for support. However, it is not considered "unconditionally available" to the family, and therefore, if the applicant/recipient chooses not to seek CS from the non-custodial parent, the CWD may not discontinue the adult for failure to apply for unconditionally available income.

### **SUMMARY**

#### **New Applicants Moving Directly to K1/3F Aid Codes**

- Are exempt from assigning their child/spousal support rights to the CWD as a condition of eligibility.
- Are exempt from cooperating to obtain financial support and/or to establish paternity.
- Are not subject to CS penalties and sanctions.
- Are not required to complete the CW 2.1 *Notice and Agreement for Child, Spousal and Medical Support* and/or CW 371 *Referral to Local Child Support Agency* forms.

- May not be referred to LCSA by the CWD as a condition of eligibility.
- Cannot have CS collected from the NCP unless the AU voluntarily applies directly for CS services.
- Are to be encouraged by the CWD worker to seek services from the LCSA and advised of the advantages of having collection assistance and/or enforcement from LCSA.
- Shall receive direct CS payments either from the NCP or from the LCSA who may collect on behalf of the NCP once they apply for services and open a case.
- Shall continue to have \$50 disregarded from the CS payment, regardless of whether this payment was received directly from the LCSA or the NCP.
- Shall have the remainder of the direct CS payment (after \$50 CS disregard) be treated as unearned income per income rules if the income can be “reasonably anticipated” according to AR/CO rules.
- Are required to report the amount of unearned CS income annually or at any time if it exceeds the established IRT according to income reporting rules.

#### Current CalWORKs K1/3F Recipients with Open Child Support Cases

- The LCSA will continue enforcement and collection of CS from the NCP, and the LCSA shall send the CS payment directly to the AU.
- Adult(s) in the AU will no longer have months on their CalWORKs/TANF time clock “unticked” due to CS reimbursement of the AU’s grant amount for months of aid repaid unless the LCSA remits arrearages to the CWD on behalf of the AU in the amount equal to a full month of aid paid to that AU.
- Penalties/sanctions for non-cooperation with LCSAs/CS agencies or refusal to assign support rights shall be removed retroactively starting with the date when the AU was placed in the K1/3F aid code. No new penalties or sanctions shall apply as long as the AU remains in the K1/3F aid code.
- The AU shall continue to receive the \$50 CS disregard.
- The remainder of the direct CS payment (after \$50 CS disregard) shall be treated as unearned income.
- K1/3F recipients are required to report amount of unearned income annually or at any time if it exceeds the established IRT according to income reporting rules.
- K1/3F recipients can close their case with the LCSA at any time.

#### Cases Transitioning Out of CalWORKs K1/3F Aid Codes

Whenever an AU is moved out of a K1/3F aid code back into a non-K1/3F aid code, the AU will be subject to all of the CS Enforcement Program Regulations in accordance with MPP section 82-500. AUs will be required to complete and sign new CW 2.1NA *Notice and Agreement for Child, Spousal and Medical Support* and the CW 2.1Q *Child Support Questionnaire* forms, and penalties and sanctions will again apply if the recipient fails to comply with CS requirements without good cause. However, CWDs must only apply penalties and sanctions prospectively, after having allowed the AU to comply with CS requirements.



## **IMPLEMENTATION**

CWDs must implement the new CS provisions for K1/3F cases immediately to the extent that they have not already done so. ACL 13-70 instructed CWDs to implement the K1/3F aid codes by October 1, 2013. However, in order to allow sufficient time for automation reprogramming changes and proper case identification, implementation of the new aid codes was delayed until April 2014.

Due to the delay in K1/3F aid code implementation, as well as subsequent identification of the conflict between state and federal laws regarding CS services for non-TANF funded cases, the CDSS recognizes the challenges of applying the new rules to K1/3F cases. Processes must be put in place to meet the requirements of the policy change until necessary automation changes are completed.

## **INFORMING APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS**

The receipt of CS is beneficial to both the CalWORKs AU and the CWD. In an effort to inform applicants and recipient AUs who are being placed or have been placed in the K1/3F aid codes of the changes to the receipt of their CS and their cooperation requirements, the CDSS has attached an informing notice CWDs must use to inform applicants and recipients. The form is a required form-no substitutes permitted form.

### **Required Form - No Substitute Permitted**

Forms in this category are required forms that the CWD may not modify or restructure. However, overprinting or reformatting under the conditions outlined in Operations Manual Section 23.400.211, Overprinting Required Forms and Section 23-400.212, EDP Modifications, is permitted.

### **New Rules in California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) for Safety Net and Certain Child-Only Cases (CW 2215)**

The recipient informing notice provides information to the recipient about the changes in the receipt of their CS income and reminds them how and when to report it. This notice can be batch-mailed to AUs already moved into the K1/3F aid code, and in the future, it can be mailed to AUs as they are moved into the K1/3F aid codes.

## **CAMERA-READY COPIES AND TRANSLATIONS**

For camera-ready copies in English, contact the Forms Management Unit at [fmudss@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fmudss@dss.ca.gov). If your office has internet access you may obtain these forms from the CDSS webpage at [http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu\\_271.htm](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_271.htm).

When all translations are completed per MPP Section 21-115.2, including Spanish forms, they are posted on an on-going basis on the CDSS webpage. Copies of the translated forms can be obtained at [http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu\\_274.htm](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm).

All County Letter No. 14-78  
Page Ten

For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876. Until translations are available, recipients who have elected to receive materials in languages other than English should be sent the English version of the form or notice along with the [GEN 1365-Notice of Language Services](#) and a local contact number.

The CWDs shall ensure that effective bilingual services are provided. This requirement may be met through utilization of paid interpreters, qualified bilingual employees, and qualified employees of other agencies or community resources. These services shall be provided free of charge to the applicant/recipient. In the event that CDSS does not provide translations of a form, it is the CWD's responsibility to provide interpreter services if an applicant or recipient requests them. More information regarding translations can be found in MPP Section 21-115.

If you have any questions about this letter or the treatment of CS for CalWORKs AUs in the K1/3F aid codes, please contact your assigned county CalWORKs Analyst or the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau main line at (916) 654-1322. For questions regarding CS services for AUs in these aid codes, please contact the LCSA in your county.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

TODD R. BLAND  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Attachments

c: CWDA  
CSAC

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



January 15, 2008

CSS Letter: CSS #08-02

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR THIRD PARTY ACCESS

The Department of Child Support Services is now accepting applications for third party access by county departments administering a program operated under a state plan pursuant to Part A, Subpart 1 or 2 of Part B, or Part E of Subchapter IV of Chapter 7 of Title 42 of the United States Code. The information located at [http://www.childsup.ca.gov/Child\\_Support\\_Professionals/tabid/197/Default.aspx](http://www.childsup.ca.gov/Child_Support_Professionals/tabid/197/Default.aspx) describes the application process, roles and responsibilities, requirements for access, and limitations on the number of third party users.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact this email [ccsasaccess@dcss.ca.gov](mailto:ccsasaccess@dcss.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

os/by Joan Obert

JOAN OBERT  
Deputy Director  
Technology Services Division

Enclosure

**Reason for this Transmittal**

- State Law or Regulation Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Change
- Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by DCSS

## **NEW RULES IN CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CALWORKS) FOR SAFETY NET AND CERTAIN CHILD-ONLY CASE**

---

**The Child Support rules have changed for your family.** Here are the changes that apply to you:

- You are no longer required to “assign” your child support rights to the county or cooperate with child support rules to establish paternity of the non-custodial or “absent” parent;
- You will get to keep all of the child support money the non-custodial parent gives you or that the Local Child Support Agency (LCSA) collects for you. You don’t have to turn it over to the county;
- You no longer have to follow child support rules about locating the non-custodial parent of your children;
- The county cannot lower your grant for “failure to cooperate with child support rules”;
- If you already have an open case with the LCSA you do not have to do anything to keep getting your child support collected for you. Keep track of the amount of child support you get and the date you got it. You may need it to report the child support money you get to the county;
- If you do not have an open case, you will have to apply for child support collection services at the LCSA to have your child support collected and sent to you. The county can help you do this;
- When you get your child support directly, you will now have to report the child support as income if the income reporting rules for your case require you to;
- If you get child support income, for a child on CalWORKs, we do not count the first \$50 each month. The rest may count against your CalWORKs grant;
- Child support collected by the LCSA will no longer repay aid paid to your family so the adult’s 48-month CalWORKs time clock will no longer “untick” (“any back child support” collected will still be paid to the county and will still “untick” months of aid); and
- If you also get CalFresh, any child support income you get may be used to figure the amount of your CalFresh benefits.

**If you have any questions, please call the County right away.**