



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

June 9, 2008

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 08-24

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES

SUBJECT: MINOR DEPENDENT PARENTS IN FOSTER CARE

REFERENCE: SENATE BILL 720 (CHAPTER 475, STATUTES OF 2007) AMENDING
SECTIONS 11364, 11400, 11465, AND 16501.25 OF THE WELFARE
AND INSTITUTIONS CODE;
ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 06-04, DATED JUNE 20, 2006;
ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 08-01, DATED JANUARY 17, 2008

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide information regarding changes made by Senate Bill (SB) 720 (Chapter 475, Statutes of 2007) to the rates paid and placement requirements for infants placed in foster care with their minor dependent parents. This legislation makes clarifying changes to statute enacted by SB 500 (Chapter 630, Statutes of 2005) and instructions issued to counties in ACL No. 06-04. The goal of SB 720 is to encourage the joint placement of infants and their teen parents when both are in foster care and to provide the most family-like setting possible.

This ACL will highlight the specific changes made by SB 720, provide counties with relevant implementation instructions, and gives guidance on available placement/payment options.

The major changes made by SB 720 include the following:

- Clarifies that an existing Foster Family Home (FFH) provider along with a new foster parent entering the system can become a Whole Family Foster Home (WFFH).

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

- Expands the definition of a WFFH to include the home of a nonrelated legal guardian when the guardianship is established by the dependency court, not the probate court.
- Expands the definition of a teen parent in a WFFH to include a ward of a nonrelated legal guardian whose guardianship is established by the dependency court, not the probate court.
- Extends the benefits of a WFFH to a related guardian's home under the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (KinGAP) Program for those KinGAP relative providers who were previously designated as WFFHs while the child was in foster care.
- Clarifies that the rate paid to a previously designated WFFH KinGAP relative for the care of an infant of a teen parent shall continue in the KinGAP Program.
- Clarifies that the board and care rates received by a group home for a dependent infant placed together with his or her dependent minor parent will be the standard group home monthly infant supplement payment for the infant, and the appropriate group home Rate Classification Level (RCL) for the minor dependent parent, rather than two full foster care group home rate payments (one for each child).
- Eliminates the need to update the Shared Responsibility Plan (SRP) requirements for KinGAP families that previously had an SRP as a WFFH.

These statutory changes, effective January 1, 2008, were intended to reinforce and support the placing of infants with their minor parents whenever possible while their parents reside in a foster care facility.

Counties should note that when court ordered reunification services are terminated and the minor dependent's child is no longer under the placement and care of the county welfare and/or probation department, the child is no longer eligible for a Title IV-E payment. Therefore, a provider would be entitled to the infant supplement amount only, rather than two Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) payments.

Definition of a Whole Family Foster Home

SB 720 amends state statute to change the definition of a WFFH to clarify that existing FFHs as well as new foster parents entering the system can become WFFHs. This language will help to ensure that the incentive exists for counties to utilize existing care

providers as well as new care providers to place foster youth and their infants together in the most family-like setting possible.

SB 720 also added language to the definition of a WFFH in Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) Section 11400(t) to include the home of a nonrelated legal guardian when the guardianship is established by the dependency court. In addition, SB 720 expanded the definition of a teen parent in W&IC Section 16501.25 to include a ward of a nonrelated legal guardian.

A nonrelated legal guardian whose guardianship is established by the dependency court and who is designated a WFFH shall be eligible to receive an AFDC-FC basic rate depending on the age of the dependent minor parent. In addition, the guardian is eligible to receive an infant supplement equivalent to the AFDC-FC basic rate based on the age of the child and an additional \$200 associated with an SRP for the care and supervision of an infant who is living with a teen parent.

For example, a nonrelated legal guardian who meets the criteria as set forth above would be eligible for a current basic rate of \$627 for a minor parent, age 15-19, a higher infant supplement payment equal to the basic rate for a FFH based on age of the teen parent's infant, plus an additional \$200 associated with an SRP as discussed below.

Addition of a Related Guardian's Home under the KinGAP Program

SB 720 amends W&IC Section 11364 extending the benefits of a WFFH to a related guardian's home under the KinGAP program for those KinGAP relative providers who were previously designated as a WFFH while the teen parent was in foster care.

A KinGAP relative who was previously designated a WFFH shall receive the same payment amounts for the care and supervision of an infant who is living with a teen parent as they received in foster care as a WFFH. For example, they would be eligible for a current basic rate of \$627 for a minor parent, age 15-19, a higher infant supplement payment equal to the basic rate for a FFH based on the age of the teen parent's infant, plus an additional \$200 associated with an SRP, if they had an SRP while the child was in foster care.

Shared Responsibility Plan

SB 720 continues existing provisions regarding SRP requirements outlined in ACL No. 06-04. The infant supplement payment in a WFFH where the caregiver and the minor dependent parent have developed an SRP in cooperation with the county social worker is to be increased by an additional \$200 per month. In a WFFH, the development of a written SRP is required for cases of dependent teen parents placed

with their non-dependent children in order for the caregiver to be eligible for an additional \$200. The SRP is designed to address specific care-giving areas and to document how the minor parent will be developing the skills necessary to provide a safe, stable, and permanent home for his or her infant in collaboration with the care provider. This plan must be provided to the county child welfare agency or probation department per W&IC Section 11465(d). It is strongly suggested that counties maintain copies of the SRPs in both eligibility and service case records. The SRP remains in effect as long as it is relevant and may be amended at anytime to meet the current needs of the family.

Under SB 720, KinGAP recipients who were designated as a WFFH, and who received the SRP supplement while the minor parent was in foster care, may continue to receive the same payment amount. A new SRP is not required. The previous SRP remains in effect as long as it is relevant and meets the current needs of the family

Refer to instructions contained in ACL No. 06-04 for guidelines regarding the SRP.

Group Home Rates for Minor Parents and their Infants

According to SB 500 a dependent minor parent and a dependent infant placed together in a group home receive an Rate Classification Level (RCL) group home rate for each dependent placement.

SB 720 conforms to the original intent of SB 500 by clarifying that the board and care rate received by group homes for dependent infants placed together with their dependent minor parents shall be the appropriate RCL for the dependent minor parent, and the group home infant supplement payment (currently \$890) for the dependent infant.

See Attachment A for placement option scenarios and rates.

CWS/CMS Data Entry

Six CDSS Special Project Codes (SPC) were made available in the system for all counties to utilize as a result of SB 500. Refer to ACL No. 06-04 for instructions on where to enter the SPCs in the system. Data reports will be generated by accessing the following codes. Please note updated changes that have been added to SPC 2 and SPC 3.

- 1. “S-Non-WFFH Non-Dep Inft No SRP” (Place Code in Minor Parent’s Care Information Notebook [CIN])**

A dependent minor parent is placed together with her non-dependent infant. The placement is not a “Whole Family Foster Home” and there is no Shared Responsibility Plan (SRP).

2. “S-WFFH Non-Dep Infant No SRP” (Place Code in Minor Parent’s CIN)

A dependent minor mother is placed together with her non-dependent infant. The placement is in a “Whole Family Foster Home” (licensed FFH, certified home of an Foster Family Agency [FFA], relative, nonrelative extended family member, the home of a non related legal guardian [NRLG] whose guardianship was established pursuant to Section 366.26 or 360*) but there is no SRP.

*SB 720 added the home of a NRLG whose guardianship was established pursuant to Section 366.26 or 360 to this category.

3. “S-WFFH Non-Dep Infant w/ SRP” (Place Code in Minor Parent’s CIN)

A dependent minor mother is placed together with her non-dependent infant. The placement is a “Whole Family Foster Home” and there is an SRP. (WFFH: licensed FFH, certified home of an FFA, relative, nonrelative extended family member, the home of a NRLG whose guardianship was established pursuant to Section 366.26 or 360*).

*SB 720 added the home of a NRLG whose guardianship was established pursuant to Section 366.26 or 360 to this category.

4A. “S-DepMinorParent w/DepInfant4A” (Place Code in the Infant’s CIN)

A dependent minor mother is placed together with her dependent infant in a licensed FFH, relative, nonrelative extended family member.

4B. “S-DepMinorParent w/DepInfant4B” (Place Code in the Infant’s CIN)

A dependent minor mother is placed together with her dependent infant in a certified home of a foster family agency.

4C. “S-DepMinorParent w/DepInfant4C” (Place Code in the Infant’s CIN)

A dependent minor mother is placed together with her dependent infant in a group home.

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Questions About The Program

If you have program questions pertaining to the provisions of SB 720 contact the Foster Care Funding and Eligibility Unit at (916) 324-4873.

If you have any questions regarding recruitment and training of WFFH, please call the Recruitment Network Development Unit at (916) 651-7465.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Acting Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachment

c: CWDA

SB 500/SB 720 – PLACEMENT OPTION SCENARIOS-NON DEPENDENT INFANT

PLACEMENT OPTION	RATE FOR DEPENDENT MINOR PARENT	RATE FOR NON DEPENDENT INFANT
<p>1. Placement of dependent minor parent and non dependent infant in same facility (non Whole Family Foster Family Home (WFFH))—any licensed/ approved facility (e.g. FFH, Certified Home of an FFA, relative caregiver, GH, etc) Use the first Special Project Code: “S-Non-WFFH Non-Dep Inft No SRP” and place within the parent’s case information notebook.</p>	<p>AFDC-FC basic rate for the dependent minor parent (plus SCI* if appropriate) or if in GH placement, the appropriate RCL of the GH where dependent minor parent is placed.</p>	<p>Infant supplement of \$411/mo for the (each) non dependent infant(s): or \$890/mo for the (each) infant if in group home placement with minor parent.</p>
<p>2. ** Placement of dependent minor parent and non dependent infant in WFFH. WFFHs can be a licensed FFH, Certified Home of an FFA, relative, nonrelative extended family member, <i>NRLG</i> established by dependency court but a probate court. This does not apply to group home placements. Use the second Special Project Code: “S-WFFH Non-Dep Infant No SRP” and place within the parent’s case information notebook.</p>	<p>AFDC-FC basic rate for the dependent minor parent (plus SCI if appropriate)</p>	<p>Infant supplement equivalent of the AFDC-FC basic rate based on age for the non dependent infant (Marin County is currently slightly higher than all other counties for this age group). Applies to all non dependent children placed with the dependent minor parent.</p>
<p>3. ** Placement of dependent minor parent and non dependent infant in WFFH or a KinGAP placement with a Shared Responsibility Plan (SRP). WFFHs can be a licensed FFH, Certified Home of an FFA, relative, nonrelative extended family member, <i>NRLG</i> established by dependency court but not a probate court. This does not apply to group home placements. Use the third Special Project Code: “S-WFFH Non-Dep Infant w/ SRP” and place within the parent’s case information notebook.</p>	<p>AFDC-FC basic rate for the dependent minor parent (plus SCI if appropriate) (whomever the infant supplement check is payable to, <u>will continue to receive</u> the infant supplement PLUS the additional \$200/mo infant supplement contingent upon the SRP)</p>	<p>Infant supplement equivalent to the AFDC-FC basic rate based on age of the child for the non dependent infant (Marin County is currently slightly higher than all other counties for this age group) plus <u>additional</u> \$200/mo per infant supplement with the SRP (applies to all non dependent children placed with minor dependent parent)</p>

Whole Family Foster Home (WFFH): A new or existing family home, approved relative caregiver or nonrelative extended family member’s home, the home of a nonrelated legal guardian whose guardianship was established by the dependency court (not probate court), certified family home that provides foster care for a minor parent and his or her child, and is specifically recruited and trained to assist the minor parent in developing the skills necessary to provide a safe, stable, and permanent home for his or her child. The child of a minor parent need not be the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Section 300 to qualify for placement in a whole family foster home.

*Specialized Care Increment (SCI)

**Amendments made as a result of SB 720.

SB 500/SB 720 – PLACEMENT OPTION SCENARIOS-DEPENDENT INFANT

PLACEMENT OPTION	RATE FOR DEPENDENT MINOR PARENT	RATE FOR DEPENDENT INFANT
4A. Placement of dependent minor parent and dependent infant in same facility (e.g. foster family home, relative, nonrelative extended family member) Use the fourth Special Project Code: “S-DepMinorParent w/DeplInfant4A” and place within the infant’s case information notebook.	AFDC-FC basic rate for the dependent minor parent (plus SCI if appropriate)	Infant supplement equivalent of the AFDC-FC basic rate for the dependent infant (plus SCI if appropriate) (All eligibility requirements pertain to this placement)
▲4B. Placement of dependent minor parent and dependent infant in same facility (e.g. certified home of a foster family agency) Use the fourth Special Project Code: “S-DepMinorParent w/DeplInfant4B” and place within the infant’s case information notebook.	Applicable FFA rates for the dependent minor parent placed in the certified home of an FFA	Applicable FFA rates for the dependent infant placed with the dependent minor parent in the certified home of an FFA. (All eligibility requirements pertain to this placement)
4C. Placement of dependent minor parent and dependent infant in the same facility (e.g., group home) Use the fourth Special Project Code: “S-DepMinorParent w/DeplInfant4C” and place code In the infant’s case information notebook.	Group home RCL level of placement for dependent minor parent	**Rates shall equal infant supplement equivalent to the AFDC-FC Group home rate of \$890/mo for the (each) infant if in a group home placement with a minor parent. (All eligibility requirements pertain to this placement)

**Amendments made as a result of SB 720.

▲Court ordered reunification services are required in order to be eligible for a Title IV-E payment.