



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 23-08

Date: 05/11/23

CHILD SUPPORT REFERRAL PROCESS

Per Assembly Bill [AB 1686](#), effective January 1, 2023, in making the determination of whether it is in the best interest of a child to have a case referred to the child support agency, DCFS shall presume that the payment of support by the parent is likely to pose a barrier to the proposed reunification.

Per All County Letter [ACL 23-29](#), effective January 1, 2023, counties shall no longer refer parents, whose children have been removed from the home and who are receiving Child Welfare Services, to child support agencies, with the following exception:

- If at the time of assessment, a parent's annual income is greater than \$100,000 or 400% of the federal poverty level, whichever is great, and a referral to the child support agency will not pose a barrier to reunification, then a referral to child support should be made.

However, the Child Support-Good Cause Claim for Noncooperation (CW 51) form should still be completed for all foster care cases at time of determining eligibility, noting that the referral will not be sent for child support collection unless the income exception is met.

Cases should still be reassessed for annual child support redetermination, change in child's status, and initial Kin-GAP referral or reassessment. Please refer to [0080-503.00](#).

When completing the CW 51 form on CWS/CMS:

- Check the box indicating that it is not in the child's best interest to refer the case to the child support agency.
- Under the Good Cause Exists section, select H (other credible reasons for not cooperating) and under the explanation of good cause, type, "Collection of child support payment is not in the best interest of the child(ren)."

Please refer to page 10 of the [ACL](#) for a completed CW 51 sample.

If you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to:
Policy@dcs.lacounty.gov