

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 25-17 Date: 09/10/2025

POLICY AND FYI RELEASE UPDATE - SECOND QUARTER 2025

This policy release update provides staff with a summary of new/revised guides and FYIs posted on LA Kids during the second quarter of 2025.

Policy Guides:

0900-513.10 Funeral, Burial and Cremation Information and Funding Options | Revision Date: 4/3/2025

This policy guide was updated to provide information on surviving relatives (next of kin), locating the decedent (when unknown), organ donation, available funding sources, and updated procedures for requesting funeral/burial/cremation services funds for a DCFS-involved child/nonminor dependent (NMD).

1000-501.30 Dependency Investigation (DI) Assignment Criteria | Revision Date: 5/5/2025

This policy guide was updated to include assignment criteria for a detention at large situation and to clarify WIC 388 petition assignment for out of county filings.

0900-511.12 Dual Agency Rates | Revision Date: 5/19/2025

This policy guide was updated to incorporate changes made by <u>ACL 24-04</u>, which states that Foster Family Agency (FFA) resource family homes are now eligible to receive the dual agency rate and supplement, if applicable, as of April 9, 2024.

0100-510.61 Placement Responsibilities | Revision Date: 5/27/2025

This policy guide was updated to include timeframes for SCSWs to approve Foster Care Search System (FCSS) Automated 280s for several placement change situations. This guide also includes information on educational mandates for children placed in out-of-home care.

<u>0400-503.50 Field Safety in Child Welfare: Preventing and Managing Client Violence | Issued Date: 6/2/2025</u> This is a new policy in support of workplace safety, including practice guidelines.

1200-501.20 Child Abduction and Recovery | Revision Date: 6/4/2025

This policy guide was updated to provide guidance on steps to be taken before considering an AMBER Alert, Feather Alert, or Ebony Alert, if it is determined that the abducted child(ren) meet the necessary criteria.

0300-306.75 Due Diligence | Revision Date: 6/4/2025

This policy guide was updated to include procedural guidance on how to request, follow-up on and complete a Declaration of Due Diligence for submission to Dependency Court.

0600-509.00 Recovery Support Court (RSC) | Revision Date: 6/13/2025

This policy guide provides an overview of the Recovery Support Court (RSC) and includes instructions on how to identify and document possible participants for this program.

C300-121 Due Diligence Procedures | Revision Date: 06/04/2025

This policy guide was updated to incorporate current practice utilized by Due Diligence Search Clerks (DDSC), Adoption Assistants (AA), and Dependency Investigation Assistants (DIA), when conducting due diligence



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searches for a parent or legal guardian whose whereabouts and/or identity are unknown; as well as when creating the Declaration of Due Diligence.

<u>E080-0620, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payments (SSI/SSP) and Retirement, Survivors & Disability Insurance (RSDI) under the Social Security Administration (SSA) | Revision Date:</u> 5/14/25

This policy guide was updated to align with the implementation of the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) to complete the functions of Eligibility Workers (EWs) in the SSI/SSA Units. The DCFS Revenue Enhancement Division (RED) SSI/SSA Units are the liaisons between the Social Security Administration (SSA), Children's Social Workers (CSWs), the Probation Department, foster care (FC) placement caregivers, legal guardians, nonminor dependents (NMDs), County Counsel and Children's Rights advocacy groups. The title changed to Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payments (SSI/SSP) and Retirement, Survivors & Disability Insurance (RSDI) under the Social Security Administration (SSA).

E080-0580 Medi-Cal Benefits | Revision Date: 6/05/2025

This policy guide update reflects current procedures to align with the implementation of the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) to identify the Eligibility Workers (EWs) functions.

FYIs:

FYI 24-11 (REV) WIC Requirements for Vital Documents and Tips on Obtaining Replacement Social Security Cards for Children and Youths in Out-of-Home Care

The purpose of this FYI is to remind staff that under WIC § 16001.9(a)(31), foster youth have the right to work and develop job skills at an age-appropriate level. In California, minors generally must be at least 14 years old to work, with limited exceptions. Providing vital documents (i.e., certified/original birth certificates, SS cards and government issued identification cards, such as California Real ID) to foster youth starting at age 13 ensures they are prepared to obtain necessary work permits and access employment opportunities as soon as they become eligible, supporting their financial independence and career development. In addition, pursuant to WIC 391, after a dependent child has attained 16 years of age, DCFS must submit a report to the Court verifying that specific information, documents, and services have been provided to the child. This FYI also details the different options to request a replacement SS card for foster youth.

FYI 25-05, Motivational Interviewing

This FYI outlines the purpose of Motivational Interviewing (MI), target population/case eligibility criteria, and staff responsibilities as it relates to MI as Los Angeles County will be utilizing MI as a case management engagement tool. MI has been implemented at specific DCFS offices referred to as FFPSA Learning Sites and will be expanding to all DCFS offices via a phased-in approach.

FYI 25-07, Social Media Searches

The purpose of this FYI is to identify the staff that will be conducting Due Diligence/Family Finding searches for investigation purposes; as well as to include the procedure by which investigative social media searches should be conducted.





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FYI 25-08 (REV), Free YMCA Los Angeles Memberships for Youth in Foster Care

The purpose of this FYI is to inform staff of the "You Belong" initiative which offers free YMCA Los Angeles memberships for youth in foster care. Youth in foster care, ages 12-26 may now join one of the 27 YMCA locations at no cost. The You Belong: Foster Care Youth Initiative provides comprehensive services designed to assist youth in building stability, skills, and confidence to successfully transition into adulthood. The FYI includes information on free YMCA memberships and instructions on how to refer a youth for membership.

FYI 25-09, Campership Program Summer 2025 Campership Enrollment

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Campership Program provides financial support for eligible children and youth age six (6) through seventeen (17) to attend Campership-reimbursed camp sessions. Additionally, there are multiple FREE summer day camp options provided by the Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors Beach Adventure and Sailing Camps available to eligible DCFS children and youth.

FYI 25-10, Transition to Microsoft Teams for all Dependency Court Virtual Hearings

The Los Angeles Dependency Court is transitioning from WebEx to Microsoft Teams for all virtual court hearings in Monterey Park, Pomona, Compton, and Antelope Valley. This change affects all DCFS notices on SNAP 2.0 for court hearings

FYI 25-11, Office of the Ombudsperson for Youth in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs)

The purpose of this FYI is to inform staff of the Office of the Ombudsperson for youth in STRTPs, which advocates for and supports youth in congregate care settings, such as STRTPs, Community Treatment Facilities (CTFs), non-contracted group homes (GH).

Management Directives (MD):

MD 25-01, Cases with Multiple Case Numbers

This Management Directive provides an overview and instructions on how to maintain case file records separately based on their case number episode.

MD 16-02. Social Media | Revision Date: 05/01/2025

This Management Directive was updated to remove information regarding social media searches for investigative purposes, as updated guidance is now addressed in FYI 25-08, Social Media Searches.

If you have any questions regarding this release, please email your question to: Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

