

**EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR MEDICAL, TRANSPORTATION,
AND CLOTHING NEEDS OF MINORS IN FOSTER HOMES AND GROUP HOMES**

- AUTHORITY:** Sections 900-903 and 11155.5, Welfare and Institutions Code
- RESCINDS:** Procedure Manual Item 2-6-206, dated 03/10/15
- FORMS:**
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Notice of Placement | (Automated) |
| Start Worksheet | (F057-5169) |
| Letter to Foster Home/Group Home | (F057-5168) |
| Receipt for Clothing Items | (F057-5167) |
| Extraordinary Clothing Request | (Automated) |
| Initial Clothing Request | (Automated) |
- PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for placement deputies to request funds for the medical, transportation, and clothing needs of minors placed in foster homes and group homes.

I. MEDICAL

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Medi-Cal

- a. Minors with custody vested in the Probation Officer for suitable placement when the Probation Officer is also authorized to draw County funds are generally eligible for Medi-Cal, which can be used for general medical and psychological services.
- b. The only exception are minors who are undocumented who are neither eligible for AFDC-FC funding or for Medi-Cal benefits. Medical bills for minors not eligible for Medi-Cal are paid at County cost out of the Probation Department budget. (Note: If the minor has been approved as a PRUCOL (Permanently Residing under the Color of Law) case, the minor will be eligible for medical as well as foster care funding.)
- c. Minors who have cash/property in excess of \$10,000 are eligible for Medi-Cal, but ineligible for AFDC-FC funding unless the money is in a savings account for emancipation purposes and meets the criteria in Section 11155.5 WIC.
- d. Per Section 11155.5 WIC, a ward of the Court who is 16 years or older and a participant in the Independent Living Program, pursuant to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (PL 99-272) may retain any cash savings, pursuant to the Child's Independent Living Program case plan. The savings must be in the child's name in a FDIC or FSLIC insured account. The account must be for purposes directly related to emancipation, kept separate from other savings and require written approval of the probation officer for withdrawals, which must be directly

related to the goal of emancipation.

- e. Medi-Cal is only valid when the minor is actually residing in a foster home or group home, awaiting placement as a "CR" in Juvenile Hall, or in special circumstances at a psychiatric facility. Foster youth are eligible to receive Medi-Cal up until their 26th birthday.
- f. Each time a minor is re-placed, a new request for Medi-Cal must be made to the Orange County Social Services Agency.
- g. Documented aliens (those having Green Cards) may be eligible and Medi-Cal benefits should be applied for using an MC 250, MC 13, and a SAWS 1.
- h. To obtain Medi-Cal benefits for placement wards in Juvenile Hall as a "CR," and placement minors that have completed their commitment and are detained pending placement use the following procedure:
 - (1) The following forms must be submitted to the Medi-Cal ET worker assigned to the Placement Unit: MC 250, SAWS 1, MC 216, MC 217, MC 13, and MC 219.
 - (2) When a minor is placed out of Juvenile Hall, the Medi-Cal Eligibility Technician must be notified by phone to stop Medi-Cal.
 - (3) Medi-Cal will not reimburse the Juvenile Hall Medical Unit or CEGU. This procedure is to be used when minors need medical treatment, which cannot be provided in Juvenile Hall and to allow CEGU to be able to bill Medi-Cal for services they provide to minors not serving commitments.

2. Emergency Medical Care

- a. Emergency medical treatment must be obtained for any minor who appears to be in need of care and treatment. Emergency treatment is that treatment or care for those conditions, including dental, which, if not immediately diagnosed or treated, would be likely to lead to severe pain, disability, or death of a minor.
- b. Generally, the Department can provide payment for emergency treatment not covered by Medi-Cal where custody has been vested in the Probation Officer for suitable placement and an authorization to draw County funds has been ordered by the Court.

B. PROCEDURE

1. Medi-Cal

- a. Medi-Cal is initiated automatically by the Deputy Probation Officer,

using the Start Worksheet, which notifies the placement clerk to begin the AFDC/FC funding process.

- b. Extraordinary medical procedures (cosmetic surgery, orthodontic procedures, etc.) not covered by Medi-Cal shall be approved by the Deputy Probation Officer, Supervising Probation Officer, and Division Director. If approved, a Modification Petition shall be prepared for court approval to draw County funds in these cases.

2. Minors Placed at County Cost

- a. Minors not eligible for AFDC-FC (undocumented aliens, some documented aliens, and some minors with estates or trust funds) are placed at County cost, and their medical expenses are paid for by the County. (Note: If the minor has been approved as a PRUCOL case, he/she will be eligible for foster care funding and Medi-Cal.)
- b. If the minor is not approved as a PRUCOL case, the DPO shall notify the placement facility that any non-emergency treatment, medical or psychiatric, is to be approved by the DPO prior to being rendered. Further, when prior approval is not obtained, Probation is not obligated to pay for treatment.
- c. When a DPO receives a medical bill for these minors, he/she is to verify that the services were rendered and that they were appropriate, obtain the supervisor's initials, and then forward the bill with the minor's case file to the Staff Analyst at Fiscal Services.
- d. Extraordinary medical expenses shall be handled as above in 1-b.
- e. All medical bills paid for by the County must be made out to the County of Orange. The minor's name shall be listed as the patient treated, also an identifying number such as the DOB. If the bill does not contain the following information: the reason for the visit should be on the billing invoice, do not use billing codes only, the amount due for services, the doctor's tax ID number, the date of service, the signature of the doctor, it must be returned by the DPO, who will explain to the physician's officer the above-mentioned billing process.

3. Medical Expenses Incurred by Documented Aliens

Aliens may be documented in three ways, and these are printed on the Green Card.

- a. "Resident Alien" card: Minors with this card are eligible for AFDC-FC funding and Medi-Cal.
- b. "Temporary Resident Alien" card: These minors are not eligible for any aid and are paid for at County cost, unless approved as a PRUCOL case.

- c. "Employment Authorization" card: These minors are not eligible for any aid and are paid at Probation cost, unless approved as a PRUCOL case.

II. TRANSPORTATION

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. On occasion, it is necessary for a placement deputy to place a minor or arrange a visit with a relative who lives out of the Southern California area. The cost of transportation on such an occasion shall be paid by the parent or relative, if at all possible.
2. If the cost of out-of-area travel is to be paid by County funds, authorization by the Department and approval by the Court must be obtained before County funds can be expended.
3. For other transportation situations, which involve in-custody matters, refer to Manual Item 2-4-105 (Custody Intake Transportation).

B. PROCEDURE

When County funds must be used for travel expenses for visitation or placement with parent or relative, the following approval must be obtained:

1. The assigned deputy must obtain approval from the supervisor and Division Director.
2. Court approval must then be obtained by submitting a Modification Petition, including:
 - a. Circumstances requiring the need for the transportation.
 - b. The necessary authorization to draw funds. The wording shall be:

"It is, therefore, respectfully recommended that the Probation Officer be authorized to draw the necessary funds for the transportation of the minor from (point of departure) to (destination)."

III. CLOTHING

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Minors with custody vested in the Probation Officer for suitable placement and authorized to draw County funds are generally eligible for clothing.
2. Clothing allowances are paid at County cost for minors who are not eligible for AFDC-FC benefits; for example:
 - a. Undocumented aliens; some documented aliens, unless the minor was approved as a PRUCOL case.

- b. Minors with estates in excess of \$1,000, unless the excess is in a savings account for emancipation and meets the criteria in Section 11155.5 WIC.
- 3. Per ACL NO. 12-43, clothing allowances are no longer provided by AFDC-FC. All clothing will need to be provided through the Placement Unit Incentive Program or at County cost if the Incentive program no longer exists or is depleted.
- 4. **Youth in group home placement receive a monthly clothing allowance of \$75, as noted in the placement contract.**

REFERENCES:

Procedures:	1-4-109	Notification System for Death of a Minor and Other Special Incidents
	2-4-105	Transportation of Youth Detained at Juvenile Hall
	2-6-204	Placement Information Change Notice
	2-6-208	Expenditure of Funds for Minors in Foster Family Homes
Policies:	A-1	Policy, Procedure, and the Law
	F-2	Recommendations to the Court for Dispositions/Sentencing and Commitments for Minors
	ACL 12-43	Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) California Necessities Index (CNI) Increases and other Rate Increases; Clarification of the Continuation of AFDC-FC Benefits Beyond the age of 19

F. Sanchez

APPROVED BY: