

Policy Transmittal Office of Child Welfare Programs



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Program Manager

Authorized Signature

Number: CW-PT-24-002

Issue Date: 01/26/2024

Topic: Senate Bill (SB) 556 Implementation and Amending Trust Account Rules

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New Policy Policy Change Policy Clarification Executive Letter
 Administrative Rule Manual Update Other:

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All ODHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: {Select type} | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Child Welfare Programs | |

Rule Number/Title:	Chapter 413 Division 310 / Financial Management
Effective Date:	January 1 st , 2024

Discussion/Interpretation:

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), Child Welfare Division, serves as a representative payee for Social Security Benefits (SSB) for children placed in child welfare custody and residing in Child Welfare placements. Oregon's SB556, which was passed in the 2023 Legislative session, codified the Departments decision to end the use of SSB for cost of care and added specific language regarding the types of services for which the funds can be used. It requires the Department to ensure any child or youth eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) receives their Personal Incidental Funds (PIF) and those funds must not be used for any reimbursement to the Department for cost of foster care. SSI benefits are paid by the Social Security Administration under Title XVI to adults and children under the age of 18 who have limited resources and income. They can receive payment based on disability or blindness. A child may qualify for SSI benefits from their date of birth if they have a disabling condition that meets the criteria outlined in Social Security Administration policies.

Important Note: PIF payments are not for expenses that are the responsibility of ODHS or Resource Parent. PIF amounts rely on SSI and can change per Cost of Living Adjustment

(COLA). PIF payment will commence on January 1, 2024, with a monthly disbursement of \$210. The payment will be transferred to the child's ODHS/CWD special trust account at the beginning of each month, designated for the personal expenses of the child.

Implementation Instructions:

The new requirement will have a widespread effect across every district in the state of Oregon, affecting all children currently in foster care and receiving SSI benefits due to disability. Caseworkers, both current and future, will need to collaborate with parents, Indian custodian, resource parents, children and young adults, and with the Childrens' Benefit Unit (CBU) to ensure that PIF payments are allocated in the best interest of the child.

Training/Communication Plan:

Staff will receive additional information regarding the availability of a microlearning video training. Prior to the microlearning availability, the CBU will connect with the caseworkers that have a child or young adult on their workload impacted by this rule change. The CBU will provide individual communication for each child or young adult. The microlearning will concentrate on two parts – managing individual financial records of children who receive PIF payments and ensuring that the funds are used appropriately. Resource parents will receive a notification letter explaining how this change will impact the child or young adult currently in their care.

Local Office Action Required:

Managers and Supervisors, please review this rule change with your team. As mentioned above caseworkers with a child that falls under this rule change will be contacted directly by CBU. All employees are encouraged to take the microlearning when available, however it will be most important for those caseworkers that have been contacted directly by CBU and their supervisors to take the microlearning as it provides additional information not represented in this transmittal.

Central Office Action Required:

Managers, please review this rule change with you team. All employees are encouraged to take the microlearning when available because it provides more information than this policy transmittal.

Provider/Agency Review:

Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

Peer Advisory Review Committee (PARC), Policy Council (PC), Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS), Office of Financial Services (OFS) and Department of Justice.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact:

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