

	Department of Human Services CHILDREN, ADULTS & FAMILIES	NUMBER: I-E.7.1 Transmittal Letter
	CLIENT SERVICES MANUAL I	SECTION: E. Substitute Care
	ISSUED BY: Office of Child Support and Food Stamps EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/2002	SUBSECTION: 7. Child's Resources
SUBJECT: 1. Child Support Referrals - Oregon Administrative Rules		

The current rules are past the three-year required review. The rules have been updated to reflect the current practice and meet the needs of the Department.

This policy clarifies that all parents of children placed in paid substitute care will individually be referred to the Child Support Program unless exempt. This policy clarifies when an exemption from child support is appropriate.

One major change is creating a child support exemption based on the date of relinquishment for parents who choose to relinquish in lieu of termination of their parental rights and the child support order is for the state. We will not be able to exempt the child support when the support order is for the parent to pay the other parent or another person because DHS is not a party to that child support order.

Although this change does not totally eliminate the confusion about child support and relinquishment, it is a step toward treating parents who relinquish their parental rights for the purpose of adoption, the same as parents whose rights are terminated. This request is from the Adoption's unit in an effort to resolve issues raised by parent's attorneys, and the need to equalize the treatment of relinquishment and termination of parental rights. The designated staff to process these exemptions from child support are Adoption Unit Legal Specialists.

A change requested by the Adoption Assistance Unit is to allow exceptions to the exemptions given to parents when children who receive adoption assistance are placed in care. The exceptions are when a child is removed because of founded abuse by the adopted parent(s) and an allowance for best interest of child.

Although the formal training plan has not be finalized, we are looking at several different ways to implement training. These include adding training about child support to casework practice, updating new worker training information, training at branches or other meetings/conferences, and e-mail and inter-net training.

In addition, a pamphlet has been created with questions and answers to be released with the policy. It also includes a list of phone numbers that can be used to contact the Division of Child Support. The pamphlet may be used for public distribution and used by

parents, staff, and other interested people. A supply will be available from Forms Distribution.

The Children's Benefits Unit contact staff are:

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Valinda Grant, Child Support Specialist (503) 945-5661

Connie Guyer, Child Support Coordinator (503) 945-6865