

Wright County Fee Policy
Out-of-Home Placements
Effective 7/01/99 (Rev. 7/01/06)

A. CHILD INCOME POLICY

1. Pursuant to MN Statutes 252.27, 393.12, 256E.08, 260B.331, 260C.331 and 256B, the full amount of the child(ren)'s income and resources attributable to the child(ren) for the time Wright County Human Services is paying for the cost of care, examination, or treatment of the child(ren), will be turned over to Wright County Human Services to be applied to the cost of care. Income and resources include, but are not limited to, Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security income (SSI), veterans benefits, railroad retirement benefits, child support, and adoption subsidy (base rate).
2. Child support being paid for the child(ren) in placement by the non-custodial parent shall be assigned to Wright County. If child support is not currently being paid, the custodial parent shall apply for NPA (non-public assistance) child support services through the appropriate county's child support unit. If child support is being paid directly to the custodial parent, the correct portion shall be turned over to Wright County within three (3) days of receipt of the payment.
3. If a child(ren) is/are in a non-family facility and his/her income is being redirected to our agency, Wright County shall be required to pay the child(ren) the Personal Needs Allowance as established in MN Statute 256B.35.
4. The amount of the child(ren)'s income collected by Wright County Human Services cannot exceed the cost of service.

B. PARENT FEE POLICY

Definition: Federal Poverty Level

The annual income level based upon household size and adjusted gross household income, as defined in the poverty guidelines updated annually in the Federal Register by DHS under authority of section 673 (2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981.

Definition: Adjusted Gross Household Income

Total annualized cash receipts before taxes from all sources for all members of the household.

Definition: Household

All persons who occupy a housing unit, whether they are related to each other or not. (The child(ren) in out-of-home placement is/are not considered a member of the household).

1. The parental fee is in addition to any child(ren) income. No fee will be charged to persons or families whose adjusted gross household income is below the federal poverty level.
2. Parent(s) receiving MFIP or *DWP (Diversionary Work Program)* -cash assistance, GA, or MSA **will not** be charged a fee. Those receiving MFIP-food portion, food stamps or Medical Assistance **will** be charged a fee.

3. The Minnesota Child Support Guidelines, MN Statute 518.551, Subd. 5, are to be applied in determining the parental reimbursement obligation.
4. If there is not a current child support order, both the custodial and non-custodial parent shall be required to have their fee determined separately under the Child Support Guidelines.
5. Once the parental fee has been calculated, the parent(s) has/have the option of extending the monthly payments by paying a minimum of 25 percent of the assessed monthly fee, if the full amount creates a financial hardship on the family. However, if the placement is anticipated to exceed six months, the County has the option of refusing the extended payments.
6. The assessed monthly fee will remain in effect for each month the child(ren) is/are in a facility that is being funded by the County; any partial months, the fee will be prorated.
7. The parent(s) is/are responsible for medical and dental insurance. Failure to provide the County with insurance billing information, shall result in the parent(s) being liable for any medical or dental bills incurred by the County for the child(ren) in placement.
8. The parent(s) apply for Medical Assistance (MA) for the child(ren) in placement to cover any medical or dental bills not covered by private insurance.
9. In addition to the parental fee, the parent(s) is/are responsible for necessary clothing; transportation *costs*; any medical costs that are not reimbursed through insurance or Medical Assistance (MA).
10. Insurance payments will be used to reimburse the County for the cost of the placement when applicable. The insurance payments combined with the parental fee and any child income cannot exceed the cost incurred by the County.
11. The parent(s) is/are responsible for notifying the Wright County Human Services Collections Officer of any changes in income or address within ten (10) days of the changes.
12. The parent(s) is/are responsible for submitting a copy of their latest Federal Income Tax return, along with verification of all earned/unearned household income, to the Collections Officer on an annual basis, while the child(ren) remain in out-of-home placement.
13. The parental fee combined with Wright County Human Services' portion of the child(s) income cannot exceed the cost of the services.
14. If a responsible parent does not provide sufficient information to determine household size and adjusted gross household income, it will be presumed that the adjusted gross household income is above the federal poverty level.
15. Wright County may use revenue recapture to collect amounts owed pursuant to MN Statute 270A.03.
16. Wright County may add a collection charge of \$85 on any balance that is 90 days overdue pursuant to MN Statute 373.41.

C. APPEAL PROCEDURES

A client may appeal to the Wright County Human Services Agency if he/she feels that the fee should be waived for special and unusual circumstances.

1. The appeal must be made in writing, stating the reasons the waiver should be granted and the desire for a review hearing.
2. Appeals must be filed within 30 days of the first billing for the fees. The appeal shall be directed to the Collections Officer.
3. The Collections Officer will notify the parent(s) with the date and time of the review hearing. The parent(s) has/have the option of attending the review hearing. A panel of three (3) Wright County Human Services supervisors will review the request. A recommendation will be presented to the Human Services Board for final approval. If the appeal is denied, the parent(s) may appeal to the Wright County Human Services Board, and/or the Minnesota Department of Human Services, if permitted by Statute or DHS Rule.
4. If the placement is court ordered, the parent(s) may request the Court to modify the fee.