

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
June 18, 2013**

PI-13-14

TO: Directors, County Social Services
Regional Supervisors
Tribal Social Services
Division of Juvenile Services

FROM: Deb Petry, Administrator, Children & Family Services

SUBJECT: Subsidized Guardianship Program Changes

PROGRAMS: Subsidized Guardianship

EFFECTIVE: **July 1, 2013**

RETENTION: Until Manualized

The Legislature increased funding in the Subsidized Guardianship Program for the 2013-15 biennium. This funding will support approximately 64 youth. Currently, the Children & Family Services is committed to providing a subsidy on behalf of 60 children.

The following changes have been made to the Subsidized Guardianship Program in an effort to manage the program within the budget approved by the Legislature while providing an increase to current and prospective guardians:

Payment (623-10-15-01):

Guardians in the Subsidized Guardianship Program will be awarded a 4% increase effective July 1, 2013. The subsidy rate is computed on a monthly basis of \$509.60. The subsidy is paid based on a daily rate of \$16.75/day.

Eligible Population Group (623-10-05-01)

1. Foster youth age 12 and older, where reunification and adoption has been ruled out as the permanency plan. Sibling groups will also be included if one member of the sibling group is 12+.
2. Youth who are legally free for adoption and do not wish to or cannot be adopted.
3. Youth in temporary custody whose parents are incapacitated or unwilling to plan permanency for the child and whose parental rights will not be terminated.
4. Eligibility is limited to children in the North Dakota foster care system for at least six months, for whom the state has responsibility for maintenance payments.

Note that priority is given to youth 16 years and older. Sibling groups will also be given priority status if one member of the group is 16+. In the event that the program is capped further due to financial constraints, children in this age group will be given the first opportunity for a guardianship subsidy.

Because of budgetary constraints, exceptions will not be allowed to the eligibility criteria.

Excluded from Consideration of Subsidized Guardianship (623-10-05-10):

1. Medical subsidies.
2. Children who have not been in the North Dakota foster care system at least six months.
3. Children who are eligible to receive a guardianship subsidy of less than \$3.00 per day, after deducting monthly SSI/SSA benefits received by the child.

Termination of Subsidy: Guardianship Subsidy will Cease Under the Following Conditions (623-10-15-10):

1. Child reaches age 18 ~~and is not in school.~~
2. Child custody or guardianship is awarded to another person.
3. Child is incarcerated.
4. Child is no longer living in the home.
5. Child dies.
6. Guardianship terminates for any reason
7. CFS does not have guardian's current address, and mail is undeliverable.

Guardianship subsidies will end at the child's 18th birthday. Subsidies that are currently being paid on behalf of former wards over the age of 18 will continue until the case is terminated for reasons listed above, with the exception of #1.

Application for Continued Subsidy After Age 18, SFN 1830 (623-10-30-20)

This section has been repealed as a guardianship subsidy is no longer available to guardians of former foster youth when they turn age 18.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Subsidized Guardianship Program. Thanks.