

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
JANUARY 22, 2020**

PI 20-02

TO: Human Service Zones
Regional Representatives
Division of Juvenile Services
Foster Care Eligibility Workers
Tribal Social Services

FROM: Kelsey Bless, Permanency Administrator
Deb Lachenmeier, Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Specialist

SUBJECT: NA/NR Match Symbols – Foster Care Payment
Foster Care Irregular Payment Category 30, Code 31

PROGRAM: Foster Care Program – Foster Care Maintenance Payments
623-05-15-100: NA/NR Match Symbol
623-05-30-15 Emergency Placements
Revision of form SFN 630 – Foster Care Placement Notification

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2020

RETENTION: Until Manualized

Children and Family Services has updated policy to ensure clarity related to the match symbol NA, Native American Title IV-E reimbursable, to meet the definition of a child reimbursable under Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The child must be enrolled or enrollable and under the custody or placement and care of a federally recognized Tribe. The Tribe must have a current Title IV-E agreement with the State of North Dakota.

Policy has also been updated to include a definition for reimbursement of irregular payment category 30 (code 31), emergency placement. When a foster child is placed in a family foster home setting and the foster parent incurs additional expenses or the child requires additional care or has special needs, the family foster care provider may be eligible for emergency placement funds. The additional expenses cannot be covered under any other irregular payment category or under the daily standard maintenance payment. The emergency rate is not an entitlement or a required supplement for initial placement into a family home.

The approval of the emergency placement must be documented on the Irregular Payment Approval Form and a copy of the form must be given to the foster care eligibility worker for

reimbursement.

The SFN 630 – Foster Care Placement Notification has been revised and the “Family Foster Home Emergency Placement?” field located under the Placement Since Removal section has been deleted. It was determined this field was not being marked correctly by case managers and was creating confusion among providers as to why one placement would warrant the additional reimbursement and a similar placement would only be reimbursed at the standard rate. The SFN 630 was also updated to include a Licensed Foster Care Placement selection of “Supervised Independent Living.

If you have questions or need technical assistance Kelsey Bless at 328-3581 or kmbless@nd.gov or Deb Lachenmeier at 328-1710 or dlachenmeier@nd.gov.

NA/NR Match Symbol 623-05-15-100

The NA, Native American Title IV-E reimbursable, and NR, Native American Title IV-E non-reimbursable, match symbols are limited to IV-E eligible children for whom the Tribe has court ordered custody and/or placement and care authority. Currently, there are ten counties of financial responsibility as noted in Policy Manual Chapter [447-10](#) with the authority to authorize payments for NA and NR cases.

The "NR" code should only be used in cases when there is a secondary placement of an "NA" eligible foster care case.

A child under tribal custody coded “NA” will lose reimbursability in any month they are in receipt of Social Security Disability (SSI). The tribe becomes financially responsible for the case. If at any point the child is no longer SSI eligible or the SSI payment is suspended, the placement will become reimbursable starting the first day of the month in which there is no SSI payment distributed.

Tribal Cases ~ Age 18

1. A child under tribal custody who is coded Native American Federal Match “NA” will lose Title IV-E eligibility when s/he turns 18 years of age and will not graduate prior to age 19. The case must be closed as of the last day of the month in which s/he turns 18, so long as the tribe retains custody of the child and the child does not enter the 18+ Continued Care program. At this point, the tribe becomes financially responsible for the case.
2. If a Title IV-E tribal youth ages out of North Dakota foster care, he/she is eligible to remain in or return to or apply for the 18+ Continued Foster Care program. Tribal children eligible for 18+ will remain eligible under the “NA” match symbol.

Category 30 - Emergency Placements 623-05-30-15

Foster children placed in a licensed or approved (Tribal Affidavit) family foster home may be eligible for emergency expenditures as a result of a crisis. A family foster care provider that incurs additional expenses or provides specialized care of a foster child with medical, mental health, or special needs, may be eligible for additional compensation for the first 15 days of the child's placement in foster care. The additional expenses cannot be covered under any other irregular payment category or under the daily standard maintenance payment. The foster care case manager is responsible to identify the needs of the child and foster parents. Approval of the emergency rate must be made by the foster care case manager and provided to the eligibility worker for the file. The emergency rate is not an entitlement or a required supplement for initial placement into a family home.

Code under Category 30

31 – Emergency Foster Care Placement:

- This code is specific to and may only be applied when a child is initially placed in a licensed or approved (Tribal Affidavit) family foster home.
- The emergency payment will increase the daily foster care maintenance rate for a maximum of \$35 per day to meet the additional extenuating expenditures as a result of the child's emergency placement.

This irregular payment is automatically calculated by subtracting the age appropriate standard maintenance rate from \$35.00. The difference will be paid as an irregular payment for no more than 15 days. If care extends for more than 15 days, the age appropriate standard maintenance rate will apply beginning with the 16th day of placement.

This irregular payment must be approved by the custodian in order for the financial county to authorize the payment. If a child within the first 15 days of placement is moved from one family foster home to another the irregular payment must be approved and can be paid if the emergency need has not been resolved and 15 days has not lapsed. If a child is on a trial home visit and is in need of emergency placement during that time, code 31 may be considered upon return to placement in a family foster home.