

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
April 9, 2020**

PI 20-13

TO: Human Service Zones
Regional Representatives
Division of Juvenile Services
Tribal Social Services

FROM: Kelsey Bless, Permanency Administrator

SUBJECT: Category 60 – Excess Maintenance Payments

PROGRAMS: Foster Care Maintenance 623-05-30-30

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2020

RETENTION: Until Manualized

Children and Family Services is aware of inconsistencies surrounding category 60, excess maintenance payments. Effective January 1, 2020, policy has been adjusted to offer clarity and efficiencies for payment authorization specific to excess maintenance determined and charged on behalf of an out of state therapeutic agency. Agencies receive direct payment from the Department and in turn reimburse the licensed foster homes affiliated with their therapeutic agency. EMP paperwork is no longer required on file for out of state therapeutic agencies.

Regional representatives are responsible to approve excess maintenance payments. If the EMP is a level IV, central office approval is required. The approval process will continue for North Dakota children placed out of state **only if** the child is placed in a family foster home and the foster parent is reimbursed directly. If you have questions or need technical assistance Deb Lachenmeier at 328-1710 or dlachenmeier@nd.gov or Kelsey Bless at 328-3581 or kmbless@nd.gov.

Category 60 - Excess Maintenance Payments (EMP) 623-05-30-30

*** The only portion of this policy updated is the last section regarding out of state providers ***

Out of State Providers:

Out-of-state placements are reimbursed at the rate of the receiving state. The receiving state may have a rating scale to determine ~~any if an~~ excess maintenance payment ~~needs to best is needed to accommodate~~ the child in placement, if not the North Dakota SFN 1865 can be used to determine need. If a North Dakota child is placed in an out of state family foster home, which receives direct reimbursement from the Department, and the need of the child exceeds the out of state maintenance rate, an EMP may be approved. ~~The approval process and level allowances remain the same for North Dakota foster children in need of an EMP, regardless of their placement location.~~ Out of state therapeutic foster care agencies that bill for costs including a difficulty of care rate along with their standard daily rate, are not required to have excess maintenance payments approved through Category 60. North Dakota will reimburse the therapeutic agency as billed.