

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

CLIENT FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTION
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SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2020
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
Toll Free (800) 862-0007



Dear Parents:

The State of California is experiencing an unprecedented budget shortfall largely due to the severe national economic crisis. Every area of state government is impacted by this fiscal crisis, including the Department of Developmental Services.

The California State Legislature passed legislation in 2009 amending the Parental Fee Program and approved changes to the Parental Fee Schedule. The Parental Fee Schedule has not been updated since 2003 when the maximum fee rate was last increased. The most significant changes to the Welfare and Institutions Code section 4782 are updating the parental fee schedule in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture's "Expenditures on Children by Families" and specifying that parents with incomes at or below the Federal Poverty Level will not be liable to pay the parental fee. As a result of these changes, the parental fee will increase for many parents and for some parents the fee will be reduced or eliminated.

The California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4782 states, in part, "Parents of children under the age of 18 years who are receiving 24-hour out-of-home care services through a regional center or who are residents of a state hospital or on leave from the state hospital shall be required to pay a fee depending on their ability to pay, but not to exceed; (1) the cost of caring for a normal child at home as determined by the Director of Developmental Services, or (2) the cost of services provided, whichever is less." To coincide with the rising cost of providing services to children with developmental disabilities, the Director has approved a new parental fee schedule for parents who are required to pay under this parental responsibility program.

For the parents with minor children in 24-hour out-of-home placements prior to July 1, 2009, the fee increase will be phased in over a three year period. On July 1, 2009, the parental fee will be calculated based on the new fee schedule, but only one-third of the difference between the old fee as of June 30, 2009, and the new fee will be added to your current fee amount and any subsequent redeterminations. Similar adjustments will be made in 2010 and 2011, and all future determinations will be based on the fee schedule as defined by Title 17 section 50213.

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

Parents

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A copy of the new Parental Fee Schedule is enclosed. The August billing statement will reflect your new parental fee amount and include the adjusted amount due for July. Please call the Parental Fee Unit's toll free telephone number at 1-800-862-0007 with questions related to changes in the program.

Sincerely,

Patti Samuel, Chief
Client Financial Services Section

Enclosure

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