

## 2848 – RELATIVE CARE PLACEMENT

<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b>	<p>The Adoptions and Safe Families Act (ASFA) recognizes that a fit and willing relative caretaker may be able to provide the best permanent living arrangement for a child placed in care. To increase the frequency of out-of-home placement with relatives, the agency has developed policy and practices to support the Relative Care Support Program Options.</p>
<b>BASIC CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<p>Federal regulations require that a foster family home (relative or non-relative) must meet the standards for full approval as a foster family to be a IV-E reimbursable placement.</p> <p>There are two types of relative placements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relative Home refers to a placement in the home of a relative who does not receive a foster care per diem for the care of the child, but may receive an Enhanced Relative Rate (ERR) or other benefits. The child is in the legal custody of the Department. This is not a reimbursable placement.</li> <li>Relative Foster Home refers to a placement in the home of a relative, which meets the same requirements as a regular foster home and to which a foster care per diem reimbursement is made. The child is in the legal custody of the Department. This is a reimbursable placement.</li> </ul>
<b>Child in DFCS Legal Custody</b>	<p>Children who are not in full or partial DFCS custody are not considered “foster care” for eligibility.</p> <p>A child in DFCS custody and placed in a Relative Home Placement means that foster home standards have not been met, and therefore, a per diem is not paid.</p> <p>A SSCM may request RevMax closure of a foster or adopted child’s Medicaid case in order to process a relative’s pending application in the resident county for TANF and/or Family Medicaid that will include the foster child in the AU/BG. The RMS will complete a Continuing Medicaid Determination (CMD), <a href="#">Section 2052 – Continuing Medicaid Determination</a>, on the existing child’s case. If the case meets all eligibility requirements under any Medicaid COA, the case will be approved under the most appropriate COA. The RMS will code and document SUCCESS with the details of the change in placement, the outcome of the CMD determination and reimbursability. The case will then be transferred in SUCCESS to the county requesting closure. The county will request any documentation contained in the RevMax case record that is required for determining eligibility for the county application. Reference Section 2850, Special Considerations, for eligibility budgeting for placement with a parent that was not the removal home.</p>

**BASIC****CONSIDERATIONS****(cont.)****Child in DFCS  
Legal Custody  
(cont.)**

**NOTE:** A Food Stamp application that includes a foster or adopted child may be completed by a county without transferring the Medicaid case from a RevMax caseload. Reference Appendix D – Documentation Standards for SUCCESS coding information to prevent the case from moving to a county caseload.

The case record will remain with RevMax until DFCS is relieved of custody. Follow [Section 2760](#)- Case Record Organization retention and destruction schedule.

Once the new living arrangement is on the member's file, the SUCCESS interface updates GAMMIS and the child will be linked to a care management organization (CMO).

Reviews on a child remaining in DFCS legal custody will continue to be requested until notified by the SSCM that the Department no longer has custody. RevMax will have responsibility for manually tracking the foster care or adoption case until the Department is relieved of custody.

A SSCM notifies RevMax when a foster child who remains in the Department's legal custody is placed with a relative and there is no request for closure. The RMS will review the funding source and Medicaid COA based on the case's new circumstances. The RMS will code and document SUCCESS and SHINES with the details of all changes. The living arrangement code will remain FC on the SUCCESS DEM1 screen as long as the child remains in DFCS legal custody. The case will remain in a RevMax caseload.

It is of benefit to a foster child in the Department's legal custody to remain a child only case and in a RevMax case load to prevent any gaps in Medicaid coverage.

**DFCS Relieved of  
Legal Custody**

A county requests closure of a foster or adopted child's case where the Department has been relieved of legal custody. The SSCM provides the current placement circumstances, new address of the child and a copy of the court orders relieving DFCS of custody. The RMS will complete a CMD on the existing child's case. If the case meets all eligibility requirements under any Medicaid COA, the RMS will approve the case under the most appropriate COA and will code and document SUCCESS with details of all placement changes, outcome of the CMD and reimbursability. SHINES will be documented as to the change in circumstances. The case will then be transferred in SUCCESS to the county of residence. The case record will remain with RevMax for audit purposes. A "transfer" case record containing copies of documentation required for the ongoing Medicaid eligibility determination will be created and sent to the county. Once the new living arrangement is on the member's file, the SUCCESS interface updates GAMMIS and the child will have a care management organization (CMO) assigned.

**BASIC****CONSIDERATIONS**

(cont.)

**DFCS Relieved of  
Legal Custody  
(cont.)**

Sibling groups are to be included in one AU prior to transfer to a county. RevMax will not close a child's case but will transfer the case in SUCCESS to the new resident county or to the county that has received a valid TANF, Food Stamp and/or Medicaid application that includes the child in the AU/BG when DFCS is relieved of custody of the child.

Use the following chart to determine appropriate class of assistance for children in a relative care placement. Follow guidelines in Chapter 2800 – Children in Placement or Chapter 2600 – Family Medicaid.

<b>Chart 2848.1 Relative Care Placement Options</b>					
<b>Option</b>	<b>DFCS Legal Custody</b>	<b>IV-E Eligible Program</b>	<b>IV-E Reimbursable</b>	<b>Medicaid COA</b>	<b>Other Coverage</b>
Relative Home – child placed in a relative home that does not receive a foster care per diem. Relative may receive Enhanced Relative Rate (ERR).	YES	YES	NO	RSM	
Relative Foster Home – child placed in a relative home that meets requirements of a regular foster home. Relative receives foster care per diem.	YES	YES	YES	IV-E, then CWFC	
Relative Care Subsidy (RCS) – Child who is transferred from the legal custody of DFCS, by the courts, to the permanent legal custody of an approved relative caregiver. Child’s income/benefits are diverted to the relative caregiver following transfer of legal custody.	NO	NO	NO	RSM	PeachCare
Enhanced Relative Care Subsidy (ERCS) – Child who has legal custody transferred from DFCS, by the courts, to the permanent legal custody of an approved caregiver. Child’s income/benefits are diverted to the relative caregiver following transfer of legal custody. Relative may be eligible for a higher payment, 80% of current family foster care rates based on the child’s current age.	NO	NO	NO	RSM	PeachCare

<b>Option</b>	<b>DFCS Legal Custody</b>	<b>IV-E Eligible Program</b>	<b>IV-E Reimburs able</b>	<b>Medicaid COA</b>	<b>Other Coverage</b>
Subsidized Guardianship (SG) – Child, placed with an approved relative caregiver, who has been in the custody of DHS for a minimum of twelve (12) months and reunification with the birth parents, is unlikely. Transfer of legal custody of the child from DHS to the guardianship of a relative through Juvenile Court is required. Relative may be eligible for a higher payment, 80% of current family foster care rates based on the child’s current age.	NO	NO	NO	RSM	PeachCare
Enhanced Subsidized guardianship (ESG) - Child, placed with an approved relative, who has been in the custody of DHS for a minimum of twelve (12) months and reunification with the birth parents is unlikely. Transfer of legal custody of the child from DHS to the guardianship of a relative through Juvenile Court is required. Relative may be eligible for a higher payment, 80% of current family foster care rates based on the child’s current age.	NO	NO	NO	RSM	PeachCare