



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA INFORMATION MEMO

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS**

FROM: CHARLES E. HENRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: USE OF TCA CHILD SPECIFIC BENEFIT THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS

PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS

SUMMARY:

As a provision of Senate Bill 754, Maryland implemented the Child Specific Benefit (CSB) policy for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) in April 1996. Action Transmittals #96-30 and #97-78 notified local departments of CSB policy and procedures. The purpose of the CSB initiative is to provide a benefit that is paid separately from other TCA benefits for an assistance unit when a child is born ten months or more after the date the head of household is informed of the CSB provision.

Exemptions to the CSB provision are as follows:

- The first born child of a minor in the assistance unit;
- The child born as a result of rape or incest;
- Another caretaker relative has obtained legal guardianship or legal custody of the child; or
- The child is placed in the home of a caretaker relative by the local department of social services.

The use of the CSB payment by the third-party payee includes, **but is not limited to:**

- Diapers;
- Clothing needs;
- Health items not covered by Medical Assistance; and
- School supplies.

Some local departments now have TCA cases with more than one CSB child in the assistance unit. Because the benefits for these CSB children are paid to a third party, the family is often unable to meet household expenses (such as rent and utilities) with the TCA grant paid to the assistance unit.

This Information Memo (IM) is to advise local departments that since the use of CSB payments is **not limited to** the personal items for the CSB child listed on page one of this IM, the child's CSB payment may be used to help pay household expenses. This allows for a safer and more stable home for the child and the entire family.

Any part of the CSB benefit used to pay the TCA assistance unit's household expenses is to be paid directly to the landlord or utility.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct questions to Edna McAbier, Bureau of Policy and Training, at 410-767-8805 or email at emcabier@dhr.state.md.us.

c: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
OIM Help Desk
RESI