

DATE: November 8, 2024

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information

Letter No.: I 24-26

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS
(CALWORKS) FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM AND MEDI-CAL
REDETERMINATION

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to provide policy reminders regarding Medi-Cal redeterminations as a result of the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 135 (chapter 85, Statutes of 2021).

BACKGROUND

CalWORKs Family Reunification (FR) is a program that provides continuation of aid and services for the parents of children who have been removed from the home and are receiving out-of-home care. AB 135 authorized the provision of cash aid and child care services to families participating in CalWORKs FR as part of their reunification plan for up to six months. Additionally, AB 135 increased the temporary absence period for CalWORKs FR from up to 180 calendar days to up to six full months. For additional information on CalWORKs FR and AB 135, please reference [All County Letter \(ACL\) 23-94](#).

Per ACL 23-94, individuals eligible for CalWORKs FR are not eligible for cash-linked Medi-Cal. Evaluating for ongoing Medi-Cal is crucial as healthcare services support vulnerable families, both during and after the reunification process. This MEDIL provides a reminder to counties regarding the Medi-Cal redetermination process for CalWORKs FR families.

CalWORKs Family Reunification and Medi-Cal Redetermination

When a child(ren) has been removed from the home and placed in out-of-home care as part of the FR, cash-linked Medi-Cal eligibility ends. As a reminder, anytime the county learns of a change in a Medi-Cal member's circumstance that may affect their eligibility for Medi-Cal, the County Eligibility Worker (CEW) must perform a full Medi-Cal redetermination, by progressing through the Medi-Cal hierarchy, to ensure an appropriate eligibility determination is made. The full Medi-Cal redetermination process for changes in circumstances shall begin with an ex parte review of all available information before contacting the Medi-Cal member. While the county completes the

redetermination, the member(s) should remain in aid code 38 for the duration of the redetermination. CEWs may reference the redetermination process outlined in [ACWDL 21-27](#) when an individual is discontinued from CalWORKs.

Household Composition Reminders for MAGI Medi-Cal

As a reminder for MAGI Medi-Cal, eligibility and household composition are determined at the individual level. When a redetermination is required for CalWORKs FR, each individual's household composition will vary depending on the individual's circumstances.

When determining household composition for the parent(s) in CalWORKs FR families, the county will need to follow the household composition rules to determine if tax filer or non-filer rules must be used. When the parent(s) expects to file taxes, expects to continue to include children removed from the home as part of FR in the tax household, is not being claimed as a dependent, and tax filer rules are used, children removed from the home as part of FR are included in the household composition.

If the parent(s) does not file taxes, does not expect to be claimed as a dependent, and non-filer rules are used, the county must determine if reasonable predictable changes should be considered. For MAGI, it is important to note that the concept of reasonable predictable changes could allow for the inclusion of the children in the household if it was reasonably anticipated that they would be returning to the home from a temporary absence. Please see [ACWDL 20-10](#) for more information about household composition for MAGI Medi-Cal.

Individuals who are not eligible for MAGI Medi-Cal shall be screened for all other eligibility which could include consumer protection programs, Non-MAGI Medi-Cal, or Transitional Medi-Cal (TMC) if applicable.

Reminders for Non-MAGI Medi-Cal

In accordance with [22 CCR § 50071\(d\)](#), a child removed due to a court order is not considered residing in the home. However, when determining the parent's eligibility for Non-MAGI Medi-Cal in CalWORKs FR families, the county must evaluate whether it is a temporary absence. The child would be included in the Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit (MFBU) if the absence is temporary.

Further, as Medi-Cal is determined at the individual level, children should be assessed for continued Medi-Cal eligibility without a break in aid. This eligibility determination could include Medi-Cal through Foster Care, Medi-Cal (MAGI, Non-MAGI, or consumer protection program), under a new case with the adult who has care and control of a child, or any other program with linked Medi-Cal already included. If the child has a

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change in circumstance that would otherwise make them ineligible, the child would be held in coverage until the next redetermination, per [MEDIL I 23-50](#). For additional guidance regarding Continuous Eligibility for Children (CEC), please see [ACWDL 14-05](#).

If you have any questions, or if we can provide further information, please contact Candyce Flynn, by phone at (916) 345-8158 or by email at Candyce.Flynn@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sarah Crow, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division