

## State of Florida Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis Governor

**Chad Poppell** Secretary

DATE:

October 29, 2019

TO:

Regional Managing Directors

Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

Sheriff Offices Conducting Child Protective Investigations

THROUGH: Patricia Babcock, Deputy Secretary

FROM:

Patricia Medlock, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare

Taylor Hatch, Assistant Secretary for Economic Self-Sufficiency

SUBJECT: Medicaid Eligibility for Parents of Children Removed

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notice of policy and business operations changes being implemented by Economic Self-Sufficiency (ESS) regarding Medicaid eligibility of parents when the child(ren) have been removed from the home by the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

As of September 19, 2019, the temporary absence policy allowing parents to obtain and/or retain their Medicaid eligibility status when the child(ren) is removed from the home by DCF if the following conditions exist:

- The parents would be otherwise eligible for Medicaid had the child(ren) remained in the home:
- All conditions of temporary absence are met; and
- The child(ren)'s case plan goal is Reunification as the primary goal.

If the goal of Reunification changes, the Medicaid benefits must be reviewed for the parent and, unless otherwise eligible, benefits ended.

BACKGROUND: Prior to September 19, 2019, parents receiving Medicaid lost coverage when the last qualifying child left their home and was expected to be out of the home for more than 30 days. This included parents whose children were removed from the home by DCF. Without Medicaid, these individuals may have difficulty accessing services necessary to meet the conditions leading to family reunification. It is anticipated by providing Medicaid to parents during the child's absence from the home reunification efforts will be more successful.

PROCESSING IMPACTS: Parents whose child(ren) was removed after September 19. 2019, and who otherwise meet eligibility requirements, will remain on Medicaid. No

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

MEMO: Medicaid Eligibility for Parents of Children Removed

October 29, 2019

Page 2

further action is needed by the parents. Parents who were receiving Medicaid and had a child removed prior to September 19, 2019, must reapply for Medicaid by completing an application. Parents without an active Medicaid case at the time of the child's removal must complete a Medicaid application.

A daily FSFN extract has been created by the Office of Child Welfare that will be provided to ESS notifying staff of when a family's case plan goal has changed from Reunification to another goal so that ESS can take appropriate action on the case.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this memorandum with all staff in the regions, circuits, community-based care lead agencies, case management organizations, and sheriff offices conducting child protective investigations. Staff with direct contact with parents involved in child welfare services with a primary goal of Reunification should share information with parents and provide the attached DCF Temporary Assistance Job Aid to assist those parents that may need to apply for Medicaid based on the processing impacts listed above.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Jennifer W. Perez, Statewide Revenue Maximization Specialist, at (850) 717-4537 or via email at <a href="mailto:jennifer.perez1@myflfamilies.com">jennifer.perez1@myflfamilies.com</a>.

Attachment: DCF Temporary Absence Job Aid

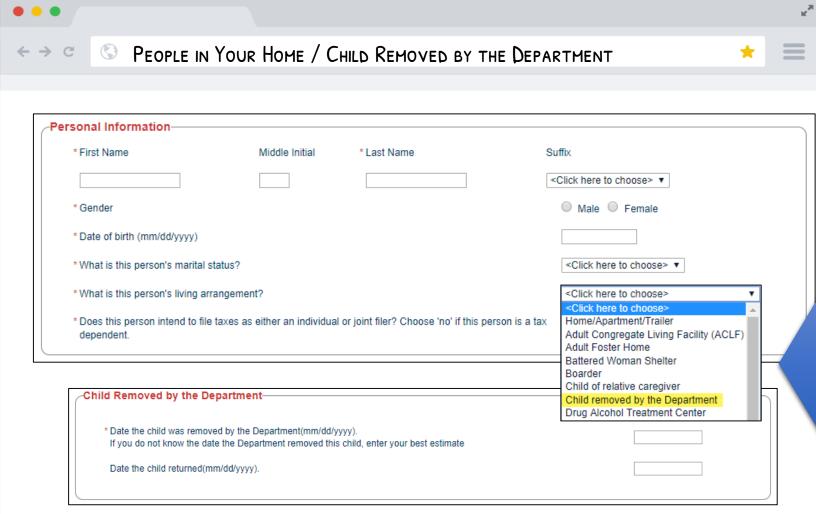
cc: Regional Family and Community Services Directors

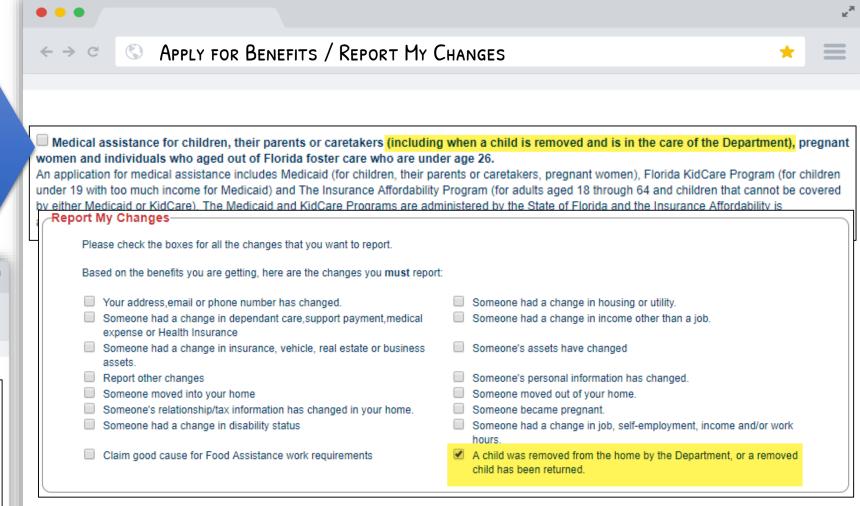
Center for Child Welfare

## MEDICAID FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN REMOVED BY DCF WHEN REUNIFICATION IS THE PRIMARY GOAL

APPLY ONLINE AT: <a href="https://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/">https://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/</a>

New language has been added to the medical assistance selection to include when a child has been removed and is in the care of the Department. A new option has also been added to report a change when a child has been removed by the Department.





On the "People in Your Home" page, a new living arrangement "Child removed by the Department" has been added. If selected, a new page will display that asks the date the child was removed and returned.

THE CHILD'S INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION OR CHANGE MUST STILL BE ENTERED ACCURATELY INCLUDING ANY ASSETS OR INCOME THE CHILD RECEIVES.