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# Care 4 Kids Program

## POLICY TRANSMITTAL



DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES-CHILD CARE TEAM


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Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-03-02

Date: March 21, 2003

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**To:** Lou Gettis, Program Director  
Care 4 Kids

**From:**   
Rita M. Pacheco, Deputy Commissioner of Programs  
Department of Social Services

**cc:** Policy Distribution List

**Subject:** Court Ordered Child Care Contributions

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**Program Issue:** An inconsistency has been identified between the state regulations that govern the establishment of child support contributions for child care and those that govern the child care program. This transmittal serves as formal notification of the resolution of this issue.

**Background:** Section 46b-215a-2a(h) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies addresses determining the non-custodial parent's child care contribution. This section states in part:

The non-custodial parent shall be ordered to pay the custodial parent a child care contribution as part of each child support award entered under this section. Such contribution shall be for the purpose of reimbursing the custodial parent for a portion of the child care costs incurred on behalf of the subject child.

Section 17b-749-04(g)(2) of the Child Care Regulations addresses how the child care program regards court ordered support payments from the non-custodial parent that are earmarked for child care. This section states that these funds shall be applied to the approved cost of care before calculating the Care 4 Kids payment.

These two sections present conflicting treatments of court ordered child care contributions. Sec. 46b-215a-2a(h) reimburses the parent while sec. 14b-749-04(g)(2) applies the contribution to the state's portion of the Care 4 Kids benefit. Since the child support orders are established in a court of law under the guidance of the former section, DSS will adjust its treatment of court ordered child care contributions.

**Policy Directive:** Care 4 Kids will no longer apply court ordered child care contributions to the approved cost of care before calculating Care 4 Kids eligibility or benefit amounts. Care 4 Kids is instructed to disregard court ordered child care support contributions for all cases processed and certificates issued on

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or after April 1, 2003, including certificates with effective dates prior to April 1, 2003. This applies to orders that are stated as percentages and to those stated as dollar amounts.

RMP:tte