
Care 4 Kids Program POLICY TRANSMITTAL



DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES-CHILD CARE TEAM

Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-11-03

Date: October 20, 2011

To: Sherri Sutera, Program Director
Care 4 Kids

From: Peter Palermino, Program Manager
Department of Social Services

CC: Policy Distribution List

Subject: Family Composition in Two-Parent Households

Introduction: This Transmittal revises and replaces Transmittal C4K-POL-02-08. Language changes are indicated by a line in the left margin.

Program Issue: Care 4 Kids regulations require parents living in the same household to be included as part of the family unit. A question has been raised concerning the composition of the family when the parents have a child in common but are not married and care is requested for another child who is not in common to both parents. This transmittal provides clarification of the rules for determining family composition in households that contain parents who are not married.

Background: The term "parent" is defined broadly to include parents by blood, marriage or adoption, the current or former spouse of such individuals (stepparent), legal guardians, a person designated as the caretaker relative in the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program or other person who acts as the child's parent, regardless of relationship. Generally, parents living in the household are included in the family unless care is requested for a child who receives foster care payments from the Department of Children and Families.

The rules governing family composition are contained in section 17b-749-03 of the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations. They require eligibility for Care 4 Kids to be based on the circumstances of the individuals who reside together in the same household as a family. Subsection (d) of the regulation requires the following individuals to be included in the family based on their relationship to the parent(s) and the children who need care:

- (1) parent(s) of the children for whom assistance is requested;
- (2) the parent's spouse and their dependents who are under the age of eighteen; and
- (3) any individuals who receive cash assistance as part of the same Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) assistance unit.

The household in question contains two parents who are not married. The parents have one child in common. The mother has a second child living in the home. The father of the first child is not the parent of the second child. DSS was asked if the father must be included in the family, if the mother requests care only for the second child who is not in common to both parents.

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Connecticut's Lead Agency for Child Care Services

Policy Clarification: The regulations require parents of the children for whom care is requested to be included in the family unit together with their minor dependents. The language does not specifically reference parents who are not married. However, clearly it is the intent of the regulations to include all parents and children living together as one family, including the parents of any dependents who are required to be part of the family unit. In this case, the mother is included because she is the parent of the second child for whom care is requested. Her other child (the child in common) is included because that child is her minor dependent. The father of this child is included in the family because he is the other parent of a dependent who is a mandatory inclusion in the family unit. Because the father is a member of the family unit, his income is taken into account in determining the family's financial eligibility and his schedule is considered in determining the need for care for all of the children.

It should be noted that because the father is a member of the family unit, he is not eligible to receive payments for providing care.

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