

## **PARENTAL FEE NOTIFICATION**

### **What is a parental fee?**

A parental fee is the legal responsibility that both parents have to contribute to their child's out-of-home placement, treatment, and evaluations costs. By law, parents are required to pay a fee when their child is a participant in the below listed services. Police initiated placements such as 72-hour hold and secure detention are included.

Out-of-home placements include:

- Family foster care
- Shelter care
- Group home
- Respite care
- Residential treatment care
- Detention
- Correctional programs

Treatment includes:

- Chemical Dependency
- Sex Offender
- Multi-Systematic Therapy

Note: Parents are also responsible for lost and damaged monitoring equipment.

### **When will my parental fee begin and end?**

It is effective the day treatment or placement begins and continues throughout the time your child is in placement.

Your parental fee will end when your child:

- Is discharged from out-of-home placement
- Completes other Court ordered treatment
- Turns 18 years of age and is finished with high school

### **How is the parental fee determined?**

You will receive financial information forms to complete and return to Washington County Financial Services. The sooner you return the forms, the sooner you will know what your financial responsibility will be.

Any income you receive on behalf of your child including but not limited to child support, SSI, and RSDI, will be paid to Washington County towards your child's cost of care. The parental fee is based on various factors including parental income (excluding stepparent income) and household size.

**What happens if I don't send Washington County my financial information forms?**

You will be billed the FULL cost of your child's placement, a late fee will be added and further collection action will be taken.

**Will I have other financial responsibilities while my child is in a placement?**

You will still be responsible for the cost of your child's clothing, medical and dental care expenses.

**If you do not agree with your parental fee:**

You may ask for a review of your account if circumstances such as your income or family size have changed. This review must be requested in writing and sent to Washington County Financial Services. Your request will be reviewed and you will be notified if your case qualifies for a change in your parental fee under Minnesota law. You may request a Right to be Heard Hearing in front of the Juvenile Court.

**If you have additional questions please contact Brenda Martin, Juvenile Unit Supervisor, 651-430-6903.**