

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: 8/21/2020
TO: Audit Committee, Milwaukee Board of Supervisors
FROM: Jim Sullivan, Director Child Support Services
SUBJECT: Update on Report filed for Resolution 20-266

Child Support Services (CSS) filed a written report to the former Finance and Audit Committee on January 15, 2020. Considering the committee changes, we are resubmitting that report together with this summary and an analysis of recent cases.

Summary

When CSS Attorneys are in court seeking a child support order, they also may, depending on the circumstances, request the father contribute to any birth costs paid by Medicaid. (Mothers may also ask for a contribution to any birth expenses they have paid).

Although the maximum contribution is ½ of the birth costs, CSS seldom requests this amount. In fact, the birth expense order in most Milwaukee cases is zero, based on the father's financial circumstances and responsibilities. Below is a summary of the birth costs orders set in the first 100 cases of August 2020.

85% of any funds collected go to reimburse Medicaid for the costs of medical birth expenses provided to the mother, and 15% is kept by CSS to fund the Child Support program. In 2020, this amount was expected to be approximately \$325,000. Using \$48,000 as our average salary, this funding loss would cost us six people and diminish the services we are able to offer to our participants.

August 2020 Cases

We reviewed 100 cases from the first two weeks of August and found the following:

- (1) 65 cases with no birth expense order
-reasons: parents married or living together, SSI, incarceration, private insurance, no income or low income (below minimum wage)
- (2) 8 cases with birth expense orders between \$200 and \$400
- (3) 10 cases with \$500 orders
- (4) 13 cases with orders at \$1000 and below
- (5) 4 cases with orders between \$1370 and \$1600 (Fathers' annual income in these cases ranged between \$36,000 and \$59,000)

Other information about birth expense orders based on past questions

- There is no interest charged on the Birth Expenses
- Money owed for birth expenses is not included in calculating whether someone is on the court enforcement lien docket

- Birth expenses are set at zero if parties are married or living together
- The repay is set at \$1-\$5 weekly, typically depending on the request of the Father.

Race/Ethnicity Update

Although as discussed in our previous submission, these judgments and orders do not identify the race of the father, we researched each individual father's race/ethnicity information on the August orders to determine the following:

Race/Ethnicity of Father	Orders	Birth Expense=0	Birth Expense repay order Set
Asian	1	0	1
Unknown	2	2	0
White	14	6	8
Hispanic	15	13	2
Black	68	45	23

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Sullivan, Director
Department of Child Support Services