

TO:

Child Support Information for TANF Recipients

Effective October 1, 2008, changes to federal and state law allow the Division of Child Support (DCS) to send a portion of child support collections to a custodian of minor children while the custodian receives a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant. See the questions and answers below for details. If you have further questions, contact DCS at 800-442-KIDS (800-442-5437).

What is a child support pass-through payment?

Beginning October 1, 2008, each month DCS receives a child support collection for your case DCS will send you:

- **Up to \$100.00** each month if your TANF assistance unit includes one child.
- **Up to \$200.00** each month if your TANF assistance unit includes two or more children.

This child support sent to you is called a pass-through payment. The amount of the pass-through payment will not be more than DCS collects during that month.

If I receive a pass-through payment, will it affect my TANF grant?

Pass-through payments do not affect your TANF grant.

Pass-through payments may affect other non-cash benefits that you receive.

- Your Community Services Office (CSO) worker will discuss this with you at your next interview.

How will I receive my pass-through payments?

If you **are** signed up for DCS direct deposit, DCS will deposit your pass-through payments in your account.

If you **are not** signed up for DCS direct deposit, DCS will deposit your pass-through payments to the DCS ReliaCard.

- If DCS **has received** a recent child support collection for your case, we will mail you a DCS stored-value VISA debit card, called the DCS ReliaCard.
- If DCS **has not received** a recent child support collection for your case, we will wait until we receive a child support collection to mail you a DCS ReliaCard.
- If you have an active DCS ReliaCard, DCS will deposit payments to your existing card.

The DCS ReliaCard is separate from your Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Card. It does not replace your EBT card.

How will I receive my DCS ReliaCard?

Your DCS ReliaCard will come in the mail in a plain envelope with information about its use. Read that information.

- The DCS ReliaCard can be used anywhere VISA is accepted or at an ATM machine.
- You do not need a bank account to qualify for a DCS ReliaCard.

How do I know if DCS sent me a pass-through payment?

Before DCS can send you a pass-through payment, we must receive a child support payment for your case. You can access payment information for your case:

- On-line from the DCS web page: www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/receive.asp.
- By telephone: 800-442-KIDS (800-442-5437).
- By mail: DCS sends a monthly child support distribution statement when child support is collected for your case(s). This statement will tell you the amount(s) DCS collected for your case(s) and the amount DCS sent to you as a pass-through.

Besides the pass-through payment, could DCS send me additional child support while I receive TANF?

Yes. If you open a new TANF case beginning October 1, 2008 or later, DCS will send you any collections that are applied to past-due support that is owed to you.

- In new TANF cases beginning October 1, 2008, you will only assign to the state any rights to child support for the months you receive a TANF grant.
- Any child support that was assigned **to the state** when you were on TANF before October 1, 2008 will remain assigned to the state.

You will receive more information about how child support is distributed each month you receive a child support payment.

- You can also go to the DCS website at www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/receive.asp to get more information about child support payments.

If you have questions, you can contact DCS or your CSO:

- For questions about child support payment distribution, call DCS at 800-442-KIDS (800-442-5437).
- For questions about your public assistance benefits, call your local CSO at _____.

No person because of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, age, or disability, shall be discriminated against in employment, services, or any aspect of the program's activities. This form is available in alternative formats upon request.