

State of California  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**  
Client Financial Services Section  
1600 Ninth Street, Room 205, MS 2-3  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 654-3319  
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
Toll Free 800-862-0007



## **PARENTAL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY MONTHLY PARENTAL FEE**

Parents of children under the age of 18 who receive 24-hour out-of-home services provided by the State or purchased with State funds through a regional center are required to pay a fee depending on their ability to pay. Ability to pay is determined by use of a *Parental Fee Schedule*, established by the Director of the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and by application of provisions in Subchapter 2, Title 17, of the California Administrative Code (CAC).

Statutory authority for financial responsibility is in Sections 4677, 4782, and 4784, of Division 4.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), otherwise known and cited as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act.

WIC, Section 4677, establishes the Developmental Disabilities Program Developmental Fund, called the Program Development Fund (PDF). All parental fees collected are remitted to the State Treasury for deposit into the PDF. The purpose of the PDF is to provide resources needed to initiate new programs which are consistent with the State Plan. Any excess parental fees may be used for other lawful purposes only when specifically appropriated for such other purposes.

WIC, Section 4782, provides specific authority for parental financial responsibility, stating in part that "Parents of children under the age of 18 who are receiving 24-hour out-of-home care services through a regional center or who are residents in a state hospital . . . shall be required to pay a fee depending on their ability to pay, but not to exceed (1) the cost of caring for a normal child at home, as determined by the Director of DDS, or (2) the cost of services provided, whichever is less. DDS shall determine, assess, and collect all parental fees..."

WIC, Section 4784, provides that the Director of DDS establish, annually review, and adjust as needed, a schedule for parental fees; that such schedule is exempt from the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act; and that in determining the amount parents will pay, the Director gives consideration to the following factors:

1. prior medical expenses;
2. whether the child is living at home;
3. parental payments for medical expenses (current), clothing, incidentals, and other items considered necessary to the normal rearing of a child; and,
4. transportation expenses incurred in visiting a child

In addition, this section reiterates the requirement that all parental payments be deposited into the PDF to provide resources needed to initiate new programs for persons with developmental disabilities.

The Parental Financial Responsibility Program is in Subchapter 2, Sections 50201 through 50241, Title 17 of the CAC. Among others, these regulations provide that parental fees shall be effective as of the first day of the month following the month that a client is placed in a 24-hour out-of-home facility; allow deductions from gross family income for specific client-related expenditures, major unusual expenditures; travel expenses to visit the client; and, set down program responsibilities for DDS and the regional centers.

The Department of Developmental Services shall:

1. determine, assess, bill, and collect all parental fees;
2. inform parents, in writing, of the parental fee determination results;
3. inform parents of their right to appeal the determination and/or the amount of the fee;
4. handle all requests for parental fee appeals, notifying the appellant and the appropriate regional center of the appeal results; and,
5. remit all parental fee payments received from parents or a regional center to the State Treasury for deposit into the PDF.

Regional Centers shall:

1. inform parents that the parental fee determination is required by law; that parents having the ability will be required to pay; and that the *Parental Fee Schedule* is established by the Director of DDS;
2. provide parents with a package containing an Informational Letter, a Family Financial Statement (FFS), and a preaddressed, postage-paid envelope for their convenience in returning the completed FFS; and,
3. inform parents that their failure or refusal to complete and return the completed FFS within 30 days of the date on the Informational Letter will result in the Department's assessing a parental fee at the full cost of services or the maximum fee, whichever is less.

## APPEAL PROCESS

Parent(s) dissatisfied with the determination of ability to pay results or the amount of parental fee may, within 30 days from the date of the Notification Letter, request an appeal. Such request must be in writing and addressed to:

**Department of Developmental Services  
Client Financial Services Section  
1600 Ninth Street, Room 205, MS 2-3  
P. O. Box 944202  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020**

## PARENTAL FEE SCHEDULE

Pursuant to Section 4784, of the WIC, the Director of DDS has established a *Parental Fee Schedule*. The schedule represents the cost of caring for a normal child at home. Fees are scaled to gross annual family income, number of persons dependent on the income, and the age of the client.

### PARENTAL FEE SCHEDULE INCOME LEVELS

Family Size	Client Age	\$0 thru \$10,000	\$10,001 thru \$12,500	\$12,501 thru \$14,000	\$14,001 thru \$15,500	\$15,501 thru \$17,000	\$17,001 thru \$18,500	\$18,501 thru \$20,000	Income Over \$20,000
2-3	0-6	\$0	\$0	0.11	0.14	0.18	0.24	0.31	0.46
	7-12			0.14	0.18	0.24	0.31	0.40	0.59
	13-18			0.16	0.21	0.27	0.35	0.46	0.68
4	0-6	\$0	\$0	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.19	0.25	0.37
	7-12			0.12	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.33	0.49
	13-18			0.14	0.18	0.23	0.30	0.39	0.57
5	0-6	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.08	0.11	0.14	0.18	0.27
	7-12			0.12	0.15	0.20	0.26	0.38	
	13-18			0.14	0.18	0.23	0.31	0.45	
6	0-6	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.22
	7-12			0.12	0.16	0.21	0.31		
	13-18			0.15	0.20	0.26	0.38		
7	0-6	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.10	0.14	0.20
	7-12			0.14	0.18	0.26			
	13-18			0.15	0.20	0.29			

If the family size exceeds 7 persons, use the factors for 7 persons and reduce the amount of the fee by 10 percent for each individual over 7 persons.

**Maximum Monthly Fee (Effective January 1, 2003)**

Client Age:	0-6	7-12	13-18
Maximum Fee:	\$541	\$585	\$662

*INSTRUCTIONS: Convert the factor to a percentage by adding two zeros to the right of the decimal point. (Example: .59 becomes .0059) Multiply this amount by the income to determine fee. Round off the nearest dollar.*

The *Parental Fee Schedule* has been included to enable parents to make a rough calculation of the amount of their monthly parental fee. The actual amount may be different from the calculated, depending on allowable deductions taken and /or given. The fee schedule printed above became effective February 16, 1989.

**PRIVACY NOTIFICATION**  
**DSP 2176 (Rev. 5/2006)**

**Section 1798.17 of the Civil Code requires this Notice be provided when collecting personal or confidential information from individuals.**

Agency Name State Department of Developmental Services	Division Administration	
Name and title of official responsible for maintenance of the information. Program Manager – Parental Fee Program		Telephone Number (916) 654-3319
Business address of official. 1600 Ninth Street, Room 205, MS 2-3 Sacramento, CA 95814		
Authority which authorizes the maintenance of the information. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4782		
All information is mandatory, except the following: No exceptions.		
The consequences, if any, of not providing all or any part of the requested information. Requested appeal will be denied or parental fee will be set at the maximum allowable amount.		
The principal purpose(s) within the agency for which the information is to be used. To determine parent ability to pay a parental fee.		
Known or foreseeable Interagency or intergovernmental transfers of the information. None.		

Each individual has the right to review personal information maintained by this agency, unless exempted by law.