



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

March 3, 2020

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: Child Support Managers and Supervisors

SUBJECT: North Carolina Child Support Guidelines Revisions

Effective March 1, 2020, the North Carolina Child Support Guidelines were revised regarding medical health care coverage for children included in an order for child support. These changes were required to ensure that North Carolina is in compliance with our federal state plan to have laws that expand the definition of health coverage, as well as the need to consider a child's health care needs as a substantial change in circumstance.

The changes are as follows:

1. Under the heading **Health Insurance and Health Care Costs**, the definition of health care coverage is defined.

"Health care coverage includes fee for service, health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, and other kinds of private health insurance and public health care coverage, such as Medicaid, under which medical services can be provided to the dependent child."

2. Under the heading **Modification**, the need to provide health insurance is to be considered a substantial change of circumstance.

"In compliance with 45 C.F.R. § 303.8(d), the need to provide for the child's health care needs in a child support order, through health insurance or other means, is a substantial change of circumstances warranting modification of a child support order, regardless of whether an adjustment in the amount of child support is necessary."

Other than effective and revision dates, no other changes were made by the Conference of Chief District Court Judges.

Revisions to Chapter J, Support Establishment, and Chapter L, Review and Adjustment of the Child Support Manual have been made to reflect these recent changes to the Child Support Guidelines.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 20800, Raleigh, NC 27619
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-855-4755 • FAX: 919-715-8174

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Further revisions are currently under review for impacts to Child Support Services (CSS) policy and procedures, and will be announced when finalized.

If you have any questions, please contact the Policy and Training Unit at (919) 855-4755 or your Regional Program Representative.

Sincerely,



Carla L. West, Section Chief
Child Support Services

Attachment: North Carolina Guidelines Effective 3-1-2020

cc: Regional Program Representatives
CSS_20_12