

CASE MANAGEMENT

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CASE MANAGEMENT POLICY

GENERAL INFORMATION

This topic contains information on the following subjects:

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4. [Case closure](#).

PARTICIPANT DATA MAINTENANCE

Maintaining accurate participant data is the cornerstone for building and working CSS cases. When data is entered accurately entered and maintained properly, cases remain workable and CSS can provide the necessary services to the case participants.

Each case participant exists once in ACTS. When participant data is added to ACTS, the system assigns a unique identification number to that participant, the Master Participant Index (MPI) number. No participant in ACTS is assigned more than one MPI number, and no MPI number is assigned to more than one participant.

A participant can be active in more than one CSS case and in more than one county. The same MPI number is used to identify the participant record regardless of the county or CSS caseworker taking the action. Updates to the participant record are synchronized across the counties in which the participant is active.

TYPES OF CASE DATA

Case data is divided into the following categories:

- **Case status, workable status, & processing status data** - Caseworkers can enter and update the case status, workable/unworkable status, and the processing status for a case. (Supervisory level workers can also close and re-open cases.)
- **Interstate status & other state case data** - Caseworkers can enter and update the Interstate status, the noncustodial parent (NCP) and custodial parent (CP) residency status, interstate document and payee FIPS codes, and the other state's case information in ACTS.
- **Case medical support data** - Caseworkers can indicate whether or not a CP has satisfactory insurance other than Medicaid. They can also indicate whether a CP in an MAO case also wants Child/Spousal Support enforcement services.
- **Good Cause & client noncooperation data** - Caseworkers can indicate whether or not Good Cause is claimed on open CSS cases that are

coded "TANF" or "MAO". They can also indicate whether or not a CP in a TANF or MAO case has been cooperative with CSS in a variety of activities.

- **Miscellaneous case data** - Caseworkers can suppress and resume billing, suppress the automatic generation of Show Cause documents, record CSS services application fee information, indicate whether or not a protective order is in place for the CP and/or child(ren) in a CSS case, and indicate whether or not a NCP in a Locate-Only case has been submitted for "Quick Locate".
- **Supplemental case data** - Caseworkers can enter and update the NCP/CP marital status information, cohabitation information, current spouse information, and NCP/CP CSS and private attorney information.
- **TANF case referral data** - Caseworkers can view and update CSS case information that has been received from IV-A through the NC FAST/ACTS interface, including order and payment information. CSS caseworkers can also send notes to NC FAST workers through this interface.

TYPES OF PARTICIPANT DATA

Participant data is divided into following categories:

- **Participant name/alias & demographic data** - Both ACTS and caseworkers can record a primary name and numerous alias names for each participant. Caseworkers also can enter demographic data that identifies and describes a participant, such as sex, race, date of birth, Social Security number, etc.
- **Participant address data** - Both ACTS and the caseworkers use address information that is stored in the system to mail correspondence to participants and to support Locate efforts.
- **Participant employment data** - Both ACTS and caseworkers use the employment data that is stored in the system for payment entry, obligation calculation, income withholding, and Locate activities. Caseworkers and interfaces can enter and store multiple employment records in ACTS for each participant. The employment record database allows the storage of more than one current job record and provides a chronological history of a participant's previous employment.
- **Participant medical insurance data** - Both ACTS and caseworkers use the medical insurance data that is stored in the system to identify participants who are carrying medical insurance and the dependents who are covered by the insurance. Medical insurance information (or its absence) is useful in identifying potential candidates for further enforcement activities. Multiple insurance records can be stored for each participant.
- **Participant notes data** - Caseworkers can use the notes feature in ACTS to supplement the standard formatted data for each participant.
- **Participant/case relationship data** - Caseworkers must define the relationship of the participants to each other in a case. Because

participants have unique MPI numbers that are attached to them as individuals and cases have CSS case (IV-D) numbers attached to them, the case relationship is what describes each participant's role in a case.

CASE CLOSURE

CSS cases are eligible for closure if they meet at least one of the case closure criteria that are allowed by federal regulation at 45 CFR 303.7 and 45 CFR 303.11 or by CSS policy.

Local CSS can elect to keep open a case that meets case closure criteria if potential exists for the collection of current support or arrearage payments. The case record should include documentation that the case closure criteria have been met and why the case is being kept open. The CSS agency must retain all records for CSS cases closed. The case must be kept open if the custodial parent (CP) supplies information in response to the Closure Notice that might lead to the establishment of paternity or a support order (or to the enforcement of an existing order), or if contact is re-established with the applicant.

Before a case is closed, it must be reviewed thoroughly to ensure that all activities are completed or ended appropriately and that all necessary documentation is included. Once a case is closed, CSS no longer has authority to take any actions in the case until after it is properly reopened by the receipt of an application or the referral for services.

When notifying a CP of the closing of a case, local CSS also should explain that the case could be reopened at a later date if a change in circumstances occurs that could lead to the establishment of paternity or a support order or to the enforcement of an order.

The case must be kept open if the CP supplies information in response to the Closure Notice that might lead to the establishment of paternity or a support order (or to the enforcement of an existing order), or if contact is re-established with the applicant.

For closure reasons that require prior notice to the CP, CSS must select the appropriate code when generating the Case Closure Intent Notice (DSS-4617). BOTH CSS caseworkers and supervisors can generate this document, and ACTS automatically closes the case sixty (60) days later. Caseworkers do not need to refer a case to their supervisor for closure when using this document.

Case closure for reasons that DO NOT require notice to the CP can be used ONLY by supervisors to close CSS cases.

The CSS agency must retain all records for CSS cases closed pursuant to these criteria for a minimum of three (3) years in accordance with the applicable Code of Federal Regulations.

APPROVED CASE CLOSURE REASONS

A CSS case can be closed if any ONE of the following criteria is met:

- A current support order is no longer in place and arrearages are under \$500 or unenforceable under State law.
- The noncustodial parent (NCP) or putative father is dead, and no further action can be taken, including a levy against the estate, or establishing paternity as provided by NCGS 49-14(C). For more information, see the [Paternity Chapter](#).
- Paternity cannot be established because:
 - A. The child is at least eighteen (18) years old and action to establish paternity is barred by the statute of limitations, or
 - B. The putative father has been excluded by paternity testing or by the court, and no other putative father can be identified, or
 - C. The identity of the biological father is unknown and cannot be identified after diligent efforts, including at least one (1) interview with the custodial parent by the CSS agency.
- The NCP's location is unknown, and CSS has made repeated attempts to locate the NCP using multiple resources, all of which have been unsuccessful:
 - A. Over a six month period when sufficient information DOES NOT exist to initiate an automated locate effort. "Sufficient information" is defined as the availability of the NCP's name and Social Security number (SSN), or
 - B. Over a two-year period when sufficient information exists to initiate an automated locate effort.
- The NCP cannot pay support for the duration of the child's minority because the parent is in a psychiatric facility or a prison with no chance of parole, the NCP's sole income is Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or concurrent SSI and either Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Social Security Retirement (SSR), or the NCP has a medically-verified total and permanent disability with no evidence of support potential. Local CSS caseworkers must determine that no income or assets are available to the NCP that could be levied or attached for support.
- The NCP is a citizen of, and lives in, a foreign country, does not work for the United States government or a company with offices in this country, has no reachable domestic income or assets, and CSS has been unable to establish reciprocity with the foreign country.
- In a Non-Public Assistance case, the agency is unable to contact the applicant within a sixty (60) calendar day period, despite an attempt of at least one (1) letter sent by first class mail to the last known address.
- The Non-Public Assistance applicant's noncooperation is documented, and an action by the applicant is essential for the next step in providing services.

- The CP in a Non-Public Assistance case (or a former TANF, Medicaid, or IV-E case) requests case closure, and medical support or the arrearages that accrued under the support order are not assigned to the State.
- IV-A, Medicaid, or IV-E had made a determination that Good Cause exists for not cooperating with CSS.
- Another assistance program (including IV-A, IV-E, and Medicaid) has referred a case to the IV-D agency that is inappropriate to establish, enforce, or continue to enforce a child support order and the CP or NCP has not applied for services.
- The child in a Medicaid referral-based IV-D case is eligible for Indian Health Services.
- Location services in a Locate Only case have been provided.
- The local CSS agency documents the failure of the Initiating state in an interstate responding case to take action which is essential for the next step in providing services.
- An interstate responding case is closed at the request of the initiating state through an incoming CSENet transaction.
- An interstate case is closed and income withholding is terminated at the request of the initiating state through an incoming CSENet transaction.
- An interstate case is closed at the request of the initiating state as a result of FCR proactive matching
- A duplicate case was built in ACTS.
- A case participant other than the NCP is deceased.
- The State Case Registry opens a Non-IV-D or "Private" case.
- The State Case Registry closes a Non-IV-D or "Private" case.

END

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