

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO.14-08, AFFIDAVIT OF PARENTAGE DATE: APRIL 30, 2008

Manual: Aged, Blind, And Disabled Medicaid Manual

Change No: 14-08

To: County Directors of Social Services

Effective: May 1, 2008

I. BACKGROUND

Medicaid caseworkers currently complete the DSS-4697, Affidavit of Parentage, as a courtesy for the Child Support Enforcement agent if applicable when someone applies for Medicaid for children. Questions have arisen as to whether or not the Affidavit of Parentage is a requirement by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for Medicaid eligibility and whether or not the Medicaid eligibility caseworker is required to complete the DSS-4697, Affidavit of Parentage.

CMS does not require the Medicaid caseworker to complete the DSS-4697, Affidavit of Parentage. As most cases are referred to Child Support Enforcement, a simple statement on the Medicaid application that the parent agrees to cooperate is sufficient.

Child support is not a requirement for Medicaid eligibility; however, cooperation for medical support is required as a condition of Medicaid eligibility. Although the establishment of paternity is a requirement for some parents seeking Medicaid, the Medicaid agency is not required to solicit information about paternity during the Medicaid application process.

Staff in North Carolina's birthing hospitals provides parents with an explanation, both orally and in written form, of the Paternity Establishment process, including information regarding the effect of acknowledging paternity, parental rights, and parental responsibilities. The mother and the natural father then have an opportunity to sign an Affidavit of Parentage for a child born out of wedlock. Parents are given information on how to follow up with the Child Support Enforcement (CSE) agency or the Medicaid agency or CSE can request further information once the application process is complete.

II. CONTENT OF CHANGE

A. MA-2375, Child Support, has been changed to rearrange the order of Section VI. B. Establishing Good Cause and to remove Section V. Affidavit of Parentage.

B. MA-2375, Figure 3, Screening Guide For The Affirmation Of Parentage, and MA-2375, Figure 4, Affirmation Acknowledgement And Order of Paternity have been deleted.

C. MA-2375, Figure 5, Second Notice Of Right To Claim Good Cause For Refusal To Cooperate With Child Support Enforcement, has been changed to Figure 3.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is effective May 1, 2008. Apply this policy at each redetermination started on or after May 1, 2008, and each application taken on or after May 1, 2008.

IV. MAINTENANCE OF MANUAL

A. Remove: MA-2375, Child Support, pages 7-17, and MA-2375, Figures 3-5.

B. Insert: [MA-2375](#), Child Support, pages 7-16 dated May 1, 2008, and [Figure 3](#).

For information regarding Medicaid, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative. For any Medicaid issues that are not able to be handled through that venue, Mrs. Angela Floyd, Assistant Director for Recipient and Provider Services, will be your point of contact and can be reached at (919) 855-4000.

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Acting Director

(This material was researched and written by Sandi Morrow, Policy Consultant Medicaid Eligibility Unit.)