

INTERPRETIVE MEMO

Reach Up Rule Interpretation

Procedural Instruction

This memo remains effective statewide until it is specifically superseded – either by a subsequent memo or by a contradictory rule with a later date.

Please file in your manual facing the page indicated below.

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This memo: is new Replaces one dated _____

The purpose of this interpretive memo is to clarify the Department's practice with respect to:

- (1) households in which an eligible child is living with both a legal guardian and a biological parent;
and
- (2) households in which siblings are under the care and supervision of different caretakers.

Under rule 2220, the legal guardian living with the child should always be the payee for the grant covering the child's needs. If the child's biological parent is living with the child and legal guardian, and there are no other children of the parent living in the household, the parent should be added to the child's grant but the legal guardian will remain the payee. If the biological parent has other children living in the household with the child and the legal guardian, the parent should receive a grant in his or her own name including the other children, and the child will continue to receive a separate grant with the legal guardian as payee. Although rule 2240 provides for the parent of a child and all siblings to be included in the same assistance group, rule 2220 requires Reach Up grants to be made payable to the caretaker who is responsible for the care and supervision of a child. Therefore, siblings who are living in the same household under the care and supervision of different caretakers should be assigned to assistance groups based on their respective caretakers.

Example: Mary lives with her aunt who is also her legal guardian. Mary's aunt is the payee of a child-only Reach Up grant for Mary. Mary's mother moves in with Mary and her aunt. Mary and her mother will be included on the same grant, and Mary's mother will have a work requirement (if applicable). Mary's aunt will remain the payee of the grant.

Example: The same scenario as above, except Mary's mother brings another child, Sam (Mary's half-brother), to live with Mary and her aunt. The mother and Sam will receive a separate Reach Up grant in the mother's name, and Mary's aunt will continue to be the payee of a child-only Reach Up grant for Mary.