

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)  
Medi-Cal Program Guide**

**Juveniles in Public Institutions**

**Number**

**Page**

**06.05.01**

**1 of 2**

**Effective/Revision Date:**

3/1/2019

**Background:**

In determining the Medi-Cal eligibility of a juvenile (under the age of 18) in a facility, staff must consider both the disposition status of the juvenile and the type of facility he/she is in.

A juvenile is not eligible to full scope Medi-Cal if he/she is in a public institution for a criminal offense. Inmates receiving inpatient or mental health services outside of the facility may be eligible to limited scope coverage that pays only for the inpatient or mental health services.

**Policy:**

**A. Disposition**

Disposition is the decision made by the court for the juvenile's welfare. A disposition order is the court decision that the minor will be placed in foster care, sentenced, placed on probation, or released either temporarily or permanently. When the juvenile is determined a "Ward of the Court" and is awaiting foster care placement and not awaiting sentencing for a criminal violation of law, the juvenile is eligible for Medi-Cal. (See MPG Article 5, Section 12 for information on Foster Care.)

**B. Status Prior to Disposition**

- If a juvenile is in a detention center due to criminal activity then they are considered an inmate of a public institution and not eligible to full-scope Medi-Cal.
- If they are in a detention center for care, protection and/or in the best interest of the child and there is a specific plan that makes the stay temporary (1 to 2 months) then they are **not** considered an inmate of a public institution.

**C. Status After Disposition**

- Juveniles on intensive probation with a plan of release, which includes residence in a detention center, are not eligible for Medi-Cal benefits until released.
- Juveniles placed or awaiting placement, on intensive probation in a residential facility, are eligible for Medi-Cal benefits if the facility is not part of the criminal justice system.

**D. Facility**

Publicly operated community residences that serve no more than 16 residents are not considered institutions, and juveniles in these facilities are entitled to Medi-Cal if otherwise eligible. These facilities may be psychiatric nursing facilities licensed by the Department of Mental Health or other community care facility.

**Example**

A juvenile is detained for criminal activity and is placed on probation with specific conditions of release, including a stay of 30 days or longer at a detention facility. The facility is identified as a juvenile detention center, not a treatment center. Upon release from this detention center, they would be placed on probation with their mother. The juvenile is considered an inmate of a public institution and is not eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits during the period of incarceration. After release from the detention center and while on probation, the juvenile may be eligible for Medi-Cal benefits.

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)  
Medi-Cal Program Guide

Juveniles in Public Institutions

Number

Page

06.05.01

2 of 2

**References:**

[ACWDL 13-18](#)

[MEM Letter 241](#)

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 3/31/2022

**Approval for Release:**

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RW", followed by the date "3-13-19".

Rick Wanne, Director  
Eligibility Operations

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)  
Medi-Cal Program Guide**

**Suspension of Benefits for Incarcerated Juveniles**

**Number**

**06.05.02**

**Page**

1 of 1

**Effective/Revision Date:**

3/1/2019

**Background:**

Senate Bill 1147 requires that rather than being terminated, Medi-Cal eligibility must be suspended for up to one year for inmates of public institutions under the age 21 who were Medi-Cal eligible at the time of incarceration. Senate Bill 720 expanded suspension policy to adult inmates effective 1/1/14. Suspension does not apply to adult inmates incarcerated prior to 1/1/14.

**Policy:**

Suspension of Benefits policy is the same for adults and juveniles and is located in MPG 06.02.05.

**Procedure:**

Suspension procedures are in the Inmate Eligibility Program Processing Guide section five.

**References:**

ACWDLs [10-06](#) and [14-26](#)

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 3/31/2022

**Approval for Release:**



Rick Wanne, Director  
Eligibility Operations

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)  
Medi-Cal Program Guide**

**Juvenile Pre-Release Application Process**

**Number**

**06.05.03**

**Page**

**1 of 1**

**Effective/Revision Date:**

3/1/2019

**Background:**

Senate Bill 1469 requires that juvenile wards held in county detention facilities (Juvenile Hall, a camp or ranch) for more than 30 days may begin the Medi-Cal application process while incarcerated so that they may have Medi-Cal eligibility immediately upon release, if possible. This section was revised to move procedures to the processing guide.

**Policy:**

**A. Notification**

The County of San Diego Department of Probation will notify the ward's parents 90 days prior to release that they intend to obtain Medi-Cal for the ward. If the parent requests an application or there is no response within 30 days, the Department will send referral form 14-88 to HHSA to evaluate.

**B. Evaluation**

If there is an active case, suspense procedures apply. If there is no active case, it should be treated as a mail-in application request with the referral date serving as the date of application and the release date as the beginning date of aid.

**C. Communication with Department of Probation**

Use form 14-88 HHSA to communicate to The Department of Probation the outcome of the eligibility determination or If the determination cannot be completed prior to the release date, at least ten days prior to the scheduled release.

**D. Release Date Changes**

When a release date changes, The Department of Probation will send a modified referral form with the new date. Change the beginning date of aid to the new release date.

NOTE: Some wards may have shorter incarcerations and the referral form will reach the worker very close to the release date. Make every effort to grant the case prior to release.

**Procedure:**

Suspension procedures are in the Inmate Eligibility Program Processing Guide section nine.

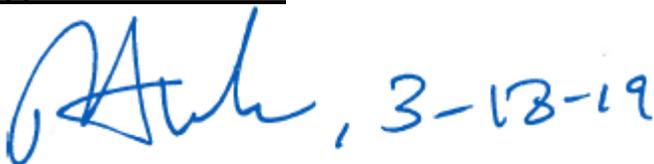
**References:**

ACWDL [07-34](#)

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 3/31/2022

**Approval for Release:**



Rick Wanne, Director  
Eligibility Operations