

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES TITLE IV-D POLICY MANUAL	
	Chapter 5: Department of Child Services (DCS) Child Welfare Cases	Effective Date: 07/29/2020
	Section 1: Definitions	Version: 1.1 Revision Date: 07/29/2020

BACKGROUND

The Department of Child Services (DCS) administers both the child support and child welfare programs in Indiana. Terminology used by the Child Support Bureau (CSB), Title IV-D Prosecutor’s Offices, and DCS Child Welfare workers at the State and county levels are often similar but have very different meanings. For example, on the child welfare side, the term “foster care” is used to refer to any child placement; however, on the child support side, the term “foster care” is used to refer to a subset of DCS Child Welfare cases based on the funding source. To alleviate as much confusion as possible, we are using terms with the most mutual definition between the agencies.

1. **“Child In Need of Services (CHINS)”** is the action filed in court by the county DCS Child Welfare office. A CHINS action may or may not include a child being removed from the home for a period of time.
2. **“IV-E”** refers to the Title of the Social Security Act addressing federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance.¹
3. **“JC”** is the proceeding type in the court cause number that designates the cause as a juvenile CHINS court case type.² The court handling the JC cause is referred to as the **“JC court”** in this Chapter.
4. A **“Title IV-D child welfare case”** is any case that either:
 - a. Has been referred to the Title IV-D Prosecutor’s Office through the IV-E/IV-D interface because the child is in a Title IV-E funded placement; or
 - b. The county DCS Child Welfare office has requested Title IV-D services because the child is in a non-Title IV-E funded placement.
5. **“Title IV-E maintenance payments”** describes the payments made to individuals for children in their care during a CHINS action.³ In order to be eligible for Title IV-E maintenance payments, the child must have been removed from the home, placed in a foster family home or institution, and would have met Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) eligibility requirements in the child’s original home.⁴
6. **“Title IV-E funded placement”** describes the source of funds for a child’s placement. If a child is in a Title IV-E funded placement, the case is automatically initiated in the statewide child support system through the IV-E/IV-D interface. If the child is in a placement that is not Title IV-E funded, the county DCS Child Welfare office may request for Title IV-D services.⁵

¹ 42 U.S.C. § 670 *et seq.*

² Ind. Administrative Rule 8

³ 42 U.S.C. § 675(4); 45 C.F.R. § 1355.20(a)

⁴ 465 IAC 2-7-5; 42 U.S.C. § 672

⁵ Chapter 3: Case Initiation, Section 5: Department of Child Services (DCS) Child Welfare Cases
DCS IV-D Policy Manual/Chapter 5: Department of Child Services (DCS) Child Welfare Cases
Section 1: Definitions

POLICY

N/A

REFERENCES

- [465 IAC 2-7-5](#): Title IVE; foster care eligibility
- [Ind. Administrative Rule 8](#): Uniform Case Numbering System
- [42 U.S.C. § 670 et seq.](#): Federal Payments for Foster Care, Prevention, and Permanency
- [42 U.S.C. § 672](#): Foster care maintenance payments program
- [42 U.S.C. § 675](#): Definitions
- [45 C.F.R. § 1355.20](#): Definitions

PROCEDURE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Q. The CSB and Title IV-D Prosecutor's Offices often use the acronyms CHINS, CHNS, and FC. What is their meaning? Are these acronyms also used in the same way by DCS Child Welfare?
 - A. CHINS stands for Child in Need of Services and is also used by DCS Child Welfare. While CHINS and CHNS are pronounced the same, they do not have the same meaning. CHNS is the acronym, as well as the case type in the statewide child support system, used by CSB and Title IV-D Prosecutors' Offices for Title IV-D child support cases in which DCS Child Welfare has requested for services and the child is not in a Title IV-E funded placement. CHNS is not an acronym used by DCS Child Welfare. FC is the acronym, and also the case type in the statewide child support system, used by CSB and Title IV-D Prosecutors for child support cases which are opened for Title IV-D services through the IV-E/IV-D interface because the child is in a Title IV-E funded placement. DCS Child Welfare uses the acronym FC for foster care, which refers to any child that is in placement.

RELATED INFORMATION

1. Chapter 3: Case Initiation, Section 5: Department of Child Services (DCS) Child Welfare Cases

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Description of Revision
Version 1	12/08/2015	Final approved version
	09/17/2019	Updated hyperlinks; Reviewed for accuracy
Version 1.1	07/29/2020	Updated hyperlinks; Reviewed for accuracy