

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 14: Adoption Assistance and Guardianship Assistance Section 03: Modifying a Guardianship Assistance Agreement	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 7

POLICY OVERVIEW

Guardians who receive financial help through Indiana's Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) can ask for changes to the amount they receive.

POLICY STATEMENT

GAP may continue up to age 21, if:

1. The guardianship was finalized on or after the youth's 16th birthday and before turning 18; and
2. The youth meets at least one (1) of the following:
 - a. Enrolled in high school or similar educational program;
 - b. Enrolled in college or a vocational training;
 - c. Participation in a job training or employment program (e.g. Job Corps or classes on resume writing or interview skills);
 - d. Working at least 80 hours a month; or
 - e. Has a medical condition that prevents them from doing any of the above (must be verified by the Severe Impairment Determination process).

Note: If the youth plans to meet these conditions after age 18, the guardian should submit a GAP application before the youth's 18th birthday.

Requesting a Change in Payment

Requests may only be made once in a 12-month period. To ask for a change in the payment amount:

1. The guardian must send the request to the DCS local office that handled the Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case or Juvenile Delinquency (JD) case when the guardianship was finalized; and
2. The request must include:
 - a. All required documents and relevant information, and
 - b. An explanation of what has changed since the last agreement that was not known or expected before.

Note: The new payment amount cannot be more than what the youth would receive in foster care. The amount must be equal 100% of the foster care rate.

Youth Not Living with Guardian

If the youth is placed elsewhere (e.g., juvenile detention, foster care), the guardian is not financially responsible for the placement. DCS may ask the guardian to renegotiate the payment amount. Any changes will be made in writing and signed by DCS and the

guardian.

Note: If DCS finds the guardian is no longer financially supporting or legally responsible for the youth, payments may be paused or the agreement may be ended. This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis (see policy [14.10](#)).

Temporary Payment Changes

DCS may approve a temporary change in payment. If the situation continues, the guardian may ask for an extension. If approved by DCS, all changes must be written in the amended agreement.

Note: If the guardian disagrees with the DCS decision on a change to the periodic payment amount, they have the right to request an administrative review (see policy [14.04](#)).

GAP - Successor Guardian

DCS will make monthly payments to a successor guardian, if:

1. They are named in the original or amended agreement before the original guardian's death or incapacity;
2. They have passed all required background checks;
3. They are appointed by the court as the child's guardian; and
4. They meet all legal duties of the guardian and the agreement.

Note: The successor guardian's home does **not** need to be licensed as a foster family home to receive payments.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 29-3-1-7.5: "Incapacitated person"](#)
- [IC 31-40-1-5: Obligation of parent or guardian for costs of placement; remittance of support payments; enforcement](#)
- [42 USC 673\(d\)\(1\): GAP eligibility and other conditions for payment under Title IV-E](#)
- [42 USC 673 \(d\)\(2\): GAP eligibility and other conditions for payment under Title IV-E](#)