

NUMBER

#19-68-19

DATE

August 23, 2019

OF INTEREST TOCounty and Tribal Agency
DirectorsCounty and Tribal Social
Services Supervisors and StaffPrivate Child-placing Agency
Directors and Staff

Attorneys and Legal Staff

Courts and Judiciary

ACTION/DUE DATE

Please read information

EXPIRATION DATE

August 23, 2021

Establishing Northstar Adoption Assistance eligibility for children whose relative custodians are adopting them

TOPIC

Northstar Adoption Assistance eligibility for children receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance.

PURPOSE

To introduce Minnesota Department of Human Services' new policy and associated procedures when establishing eligibility for Northstar Adoption Assistance for children receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance whose relative custodians are adopting them.

CONTACT

Heidi Ombisa Skallet, adoption and kinship policy specialist:

Northstar.Benefits@state.mn.us

SIGNED

NIKKI FARAGO

Assistant Commissioner, Children and Family Services Administration

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Background

Minnesota statutes exclude the commissioner of Human Services from entering into a Northstar Adoption Assistance benefit agreement with a child's legal guardian or custodian. However, this exclusion does not apply to a child's relative custodian, as ordered by the court under Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or a similar provision under tribal code, when a relative custodian receives Northstar Kinship Assistance on behalf of a child whom they are adopting.

This bulletin introduces the Minnesota Department of Human Services' (department) new policy and associated procedures for establishing Northstar Adoption Assistance eligibility for children in this circumstance.

[42 U.S. Code § 673 (a)(2)(D); Minn. Stat. §§ 256N.23, subds. 1 (d) and 6 (4); 256N.28, subd. 2]

II. New policy and associated procedures on CountyLink

The department has developed a policy and associated procedures for establishing Northstar Adoption Assistance eligibility for children currently receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance whose relative custodians are adopting them. This policy is effective immediately and is located on CountyLink, on the Adoption and Guardianship page under DHS Program Resources.

- [Policy on establishing Northstar Adoption Assistance eligibility for children receiving Northstar Kinship Assistance](#)

Department staff also created an eligibility status form for relative custodians to use when determining whether they will likely be eligible for Northstar Adoption Assistance. This form does not determine eligibility, or guarantee eligibility. It is on eDocs and CountyLink.

- [Title IV-E Northstar Adoption Assistance eligibility status \(DHS-7885\)](#)

For relative custodians who have questions about the difference between adoption and transfer of permanent legal and physical custody, the Paths to Permanency brochures are a resource.

- [Paths to permanency – Adoption of children in foster care \(DHS-7024A\)](#)
- [Paths to permanency – Transfer of permanent legal and physical custody of children in foster care \(DHS-7024B\)](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-4660 (voice) or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.