

## What Is the Parent Fee Program?

In the Spring of 2002, the Kansas Legislature directed the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) to start charging and collecting fees from parents to pay for a portion of services provided to their children. In the Summer of 2002, SRS convened a group, including parents of children with a disability and non-SRS staff whose agencies provide Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), which helped establish rules for the Parent Fee Program and a sliding fee scale. To keep the program simple and adaptable for family needs, the paperwork required of parents is brief and infrequent, the rules are relatively straightforward, and the fees set on the sliding fee scale have been lowered to account for many circumstances that create expenses for families who have a child with a disability.

## SRS WEBSITE FOR FORMS, ETC.

Complete guidelines for the Parent Fee Program including a fee estimation tool, the IDF, and the RFV are on the SRS Health Care Policy website at

[www.srskansas.org/hcp/MOMain.htm](http://www.srskansas.org/hcp/MOMain.htm)

### QUESTIONS:

Questions may be directed to staff of the SRS Parent Fee Program in Topeka at:

Phone:  
(785) 296-3536

E-Mail:  
[JAZM@srskansas.org](mailto:JAZM@srskansas.org)

Mailing Address:  
SRS, Health Care Policy - Parent Fee Program  
915 SW Harrison, DSOB 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Topeka, KS 66612-1570

## PARENT FEE PROGRAM: DD, TA, and SED Waivers

*"Since the Fall of 2002 when the Parent Fee Program began, hundreds of parents have been promptly paying their monthly Parent Fees, and SRS thanks these parents sincerely. These payments are needed to help other children and families like your own obtain services that may not have been available otherwise... I trust that you will find the HCBS services beneficial for your child and family, and I thank you in advance for sharing in the cost for these services through the Parent Fee Program."*

--from an Open Letter to parents from SRS Secretary Gary J. Daniels in August 2005



## Who Is Included?

The parent fee program includes parents of children participating in the **DD Waiver** for Children with Mental Retardation or a Developmental Disability, the **TA Waiver** Technical Assistance for Children who depend on technology for life, and the **SED Waiver** for Children with a Severe Emotional Disturbance. These waivers determine a child's eligibility without considering parental resources or income. The Parent Fee Program was created for these waivers to increase fairness and shared responsibility by charging families who have the means a portion of the cost of services provided to their minor children. The fee assessed the family is based on the parents' income according to a sliding scale. Persons caring for a child with a disability who do not have to pay a fee include:

- Grandparents and other relatives
- Adoptive parents and foster parents
- Biological parents with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Biological parents experiencing a verifiable hardship, e.g., homelessness, loss of job, a change of income that drops the family's income below 200% of the FPL.

In certain circumstances (i.e., the loss of income or an increase in family size), SRS may waive or reduce a family's parent fee. Parents must complete a Request for a Fee Variance (RFV) form to receive this waiver or reduction of fees.

**Note:** Parents with 2 children on HCBS are charged a fee for one child only.

## What Will My Fee Be?

The following table should give most families a rough estimation of their fee. Fees are based on the number of exemptions (size of family) and the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) claimed on the families most recent federal income tax return.

	# of exemptions on your tax return (size of family)			
	2	3	4	5+
\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$30,000	\$15-20	\$0-10	\$0	\$0
\$40,000	\$33-41	\$15-20	\$0-10	\$0
\$50,000	\$58-68	\$33-41	\$15-20	\$10-15
\$60,000	\$90-102	\$49-58	\$26-33	\$20-26
\$70,000	\$129-143	\$68-79	\$41-49	\$26-33
<b>Estimated Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)</b>				

For a detailed estimation, see the Parent Fee Schedule on the Family Fee page of the SRS website.

[www.srskansas.org/hcp/mo/MOParentalFeeInfo.htm](http://www.srskansas.org/hcp/mo/MOParentalFeeInfo.htm)

## How Will SRS Bill Me?

SRS receives from each family with a child on the qualifying waivers the Information Disclosure Form (IDF), which provides them the necessary information to calculate individually a family's fee. The SRS billing system then automatically mails the family a statement around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month with the fee for the previous month's services. The money is due around the 8<sup>th</sup> of the following month and should be sent with the bottom portion of the bill back to SRS.

## When Will the Fee End?

Families participate in the Family Fee Program until the month following the last issuance of the Medical Card that accompanies HCBS services or until the month following the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. With payment of their final bill, parents are asked to note on the statement the date the child is discontinuing HCBS services or the date on which your child turns age 18.

Please note:

If a parent does not pay their fee, SRS will not terminate HCBS services to their child, **But** SRS is authorized to pursue collection, including legal action, if necessary.

Parents who fall behind on their payments are encouraged to contact JoAnn Mrstik in SRS - Health Care Policy Management Operations at (785) 296-3536 to work out an acceptable payment agreement plan that will pay off the debt in a reasonable period of time.