

Minor Parent Services (MPS)

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Forms

The following forms are referenced in this file:

- [CW25](#) Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent

Definitions

A “minor parent” is a pregnant or parenting minor, under age 18, who has never been married. A “minor parent” is not necessarily a dependent, and can be either the mother or the father of the infant.

A “dependent minor parent” is a parent under age 18 who has an open dependency case.

For these policy purposes, the term “infant” will be used to describe the minor parent’s child. An “infant” is not necessarily a dependent, nor does the word “infant” infer a particular age.

For these policy purposes, a “senior parent” is the minor parent’s parent (i.e., the grandparent of the infant).

Refer to the following PM files for additional information on parenting youth:

- EFC - Parenting NMDs
- Minor Parents - General Information.

Minor Parent Services (MPS) and CalWORKs eligibility

A minor parent may receive CalWORKs Services only if (s)he resides in one of the following:

1. The home of a parent, legal guardian, other adult relative, or
2. An adult-supervised supportive living arrangement (e.g., group home or maternity home), unless the minor parent meets one of the exemption criteria listed below.

A minor parent may be allowed to live independently and receive CalWORKs, if:

- (s)he has no parent or legal guardian who is living or whose whereabouts are known.
 - (s)he has no parent or legal guardian who will allow the minor parent to live in his/her home.
 - (s)he lived apart from his/her parent or guardian for at least one year before either the birth of the infant or the minor’s application for aid.
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Minor Parent Services (MPS) and CalWORKs eligibility (cont.)

- CWS determines that the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent and infant would be jeopardized if they live with the senior parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative, or
 - (s)he is legally emancipated.
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Minor Parent Services (MPS)

If it is determined that there is a safety threat in the home of the senior parent or caregiver (parent or caregiver to the minor parent), and the minor parent is able to live independently with their infant, then the minor parent must be offered Minor Parent Services (MPS), which are:

- intended to be in-home SW visiting model of supportive services to provide education and support for minor parents and their infant(s), to assist them in creating a healthy and safe environment.
- provided in the form of a Voluntary Services case, and should also focus on the following:
 - Infant health and development
 - Nutrition
 - Parenting skills
 - Life skills
- only offered to minor parents until age 18, who do not have an open case with CWS.
- provided and case managed by the Minor Parent Services Liaison in the ILS Program.

The minor parent has the right to refuse MPS. If MPS are refused or ends, the safety of the infant must be taken into consideration. If there is a potential safety threat to the infant of the minor parent, then a referral to the Child Abuse Hotline must be made.

MPS cases have the same compliance visit requirements as other CWS cases. At every face-to-face in-home visits, the Minor Parent Services Liaison will:

- assess the infant and minor parent's circumstances
- provide referrals to appropriate community services
- educate about issues, such as infant health and development, nutrition, parenting techniques and other relevant life skills.

If a referral is received on an open MPS case, that referral will be investigated by the region where the minor parent lives.

The minor parent's SW will inform the MPS Liaison of the following:

- new referral/allegations
 - a case gets opened
 - MDT, CFT and other case planning activities.
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Minor Parent Services referrals

If a minor parent indicates during the CalWORKs application process that living with a senior parent, a legal guardian, or another adult relative would place that minor parent or her/his infant at risk of abuse, then the Human Services Specialist (HSS) will make a referral to CWS for an investigation of that allegation. CWS is required to complete a full investigation on these referrals and respond to CalWORKs within 20 calendar days of the youth applying for assistance.

Referral procedures

The following table summarizes the MPS referral procedures:

Step	Who	Action
1	Minor Parent	Complete a CW25 (application for CalWORKs).
2	HSS	Is exemption request due to abuse and neglect issues in the senior parent/legal guardian's home? If yes , then go to Step 3. If no , then verify the application, grant CalWORKs.
3	HSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact the Child Abuse Hotline to make a report.• Fax the CW 25 to the Minor Parent Services Liaison within the ILS Program to 619-767-5221 with "ATTN: Minor Parent Services."
4	Hotline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give primary assignment of the referral to region for investigation based on current assignment procedures.• Give secondary assignment to the MPS inbox, MM6A.
5	Investigating SW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete an in-person investigation and risk assessment of the minor parent's home and the senior parent's or guardian's home.• Follow existing policy and procedures for opening or closing the case to services.• Collaborate with MPS Liaison during the investigation.
6	MPS Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon receipt of the CW 25, contact the investigating SW for additional information.• Complete the bottom portion of the CA 25 indicating whether or not a safety issue exists after the investigating SW has completed his/her investigation.• Return the CA 25 to the HSS within 20 calendar days of the youth applying for assistance (the date the youth filled out the CW 25).
7	HSS	Does a safety issue exist? If yes , then CalWORKs is granted. If no , then CalWORKs is denied.

**Alignment with SET
Values**

This policy aligns with SET [Value 1](#): Relationships with Children, Youth, and Families are the Foundation and [Value 3](#): Helping Children and Youth achieve their full potential and develop lifelong relationships. This is achieved by assuring that minor parents children are placed together whenever it is safe; ensuring the voice of the minor's parent is heard in case planning; and ensuring a trauma informed perspective is used.
