

Minor Parent Services (MPS)

(Revised 01/23/26)

[Related Policies](#)

[Forms](#)

[Definitions](#)

[Minor Parent Services and CalWORKs Eligibility](#)

[Minor Parent Services Referral Process](#)

[Minor Parent Services \(MPS\)](#)

[Alignment with SET](#)

Related Policies

Additional information can be found in the following policies:

- CalWORKS Rates
- Centralized Assessment Team [\(CAT\)](#)
- ER-Investigations
- Hotline – Assignment of Referrals

Forms

The following forms are referenced in this policy:

- [CW 25](#) Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent

Definitions

A “minor parent” is a pregnant or parenting minor, under age 18, who has never been married and **does not** have an open dependency case. A “minor parent” can be either the mother or the father of the infant.

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

Minor Parent Services (MPS) and CalWORKs Eligibility

Minor Parent Services is a program designed to assist minor parents, who are not living in the home of the senior parent or another responsible adult, with obtaining community services like CalWORKS, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and Medi-Cal while living in a safe environment.

A minor parent may receive CalWORKS (see [CalWORKS Rates](#)), the payment would be made to the adult living in the same home, if they reside in one of the following:

1. The home of a senior parent, legal guardian, other adult relative, or
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**Minor Parent
Services (MPS)
and CalWORKs
Eligibility (cont.)**

2. An adult-supervised supportive living arrangement (e.g., short-term residential treatment placement (STRTP)/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:

- they have no senior parent or legal guardian who is living or whose whereabouts are known or
- they have no senior parent or legal guardian who will allow the minor parent to live in their home or
- they lived apart from their senior parent or guardian for at least one year before either the birth of the infant or the minor's application for aid or
- Child and Family Well Being (CFWB) Office of Child Safety (OCS) 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.

**Minor Parent
Services Referral
Process**

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 their infant at risk of abuse, then the Human Services Specialist (HSS) will make a referral to the Child Abuse Hotline for an investigation of that allegation. Per [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) 16504](#), OCS is required to complete a full investigation into these referrals and respond to CalWORKs within 20 calendar days of the minor parent applying for assistance.

The following table outlines the MPS referral procedures:

Step	Who	Action
1	Minor Parent	Complete a CW 25 Supplemental Statement of Facts – Minor Parent (application for CalWORKs).
2	CalWORKs HSS	<p>There is no exemption request, grant CalWORKs for the applicant.</p> <p>There is an exemption request that is due to abuse and neglect in the senior parent's/legal guardian's home then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact the Child Abuse Hotline to make a report and include the CW 25 Supplemental Statement of Facts- Minor Parent.• Email the CW 25 Supplemental Statement of Facts – Minor Parent to the Minor Parent Services (MPS) Liaison within the ILS Program "ATTN: Minor Parent Services."

**Minor Parent
Services Referral
Process (cont.)**

Step	Who	Action
3	Hotline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend primary assignment of the referral to Centralized Assessment Team (CAT) for investigation based on zip code of senior parent. See CAT policy and Hotline – Assignment of Referrals for more information. Give secondary assignment to the MPS inbox, MM6A.
4	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. See ER-Investigations for more information. Contact the MPS Liaison to coordinate the in-person investigation and risk assessment of the minor parent's home and the senior parent's or guardian's home. The MPS liaison will be secondary on the referral.
5	MPS Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon receipt of the CW 25 Supplemental Statement of Facts-Minor Parent, contact the investigating SW for additional information to coordinate on completing the in-person investigation After completing the in-person investigation with the investigating SW, consult with ILS PSS about the information gathered at that visit. Complete the bottom portion of the CW 25 Supplemental Statement of Facts-Minor Parent indicating whether or not a safety issue exists after consulting with the investigating SW on how the referral will be closed. 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). Open a Voluntary Case in CWS/CMS on the minor parent with the case alert noting that this is an AB 908 case with no dependency involvement, if determined that the youth meets criteria.
6	CalWORKS HSS	When a safety issue exists, grant the CalWORKS request.

Minor Parent Services (MPS)

If it is determined that there is a safety threat in the home of the senior parent or caregiver of 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 and case managed by the Minor Parent Services Liaison in the Independent Living Skills (ILS) Program.
- 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 Office of Child Safety (OCS).

If it is determined that the minor parent is eligible for MPS, a Voluntary case shall be opened for them in the State approved database. The SW will ensure that a case alert is added noting that this is an AB 908 case and there is no dependency involvement. MPS cases have the same compliance visit requirements as other OCS Voluntary cases and contacts will be documented in the State approved database. At every face-to-face in-home visit, the Minor Parent Services Liaison will:

- assess the infant and minor parent's circumstances
- provide referrals to appropriate community services
- educate the minor parent 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, see [Hotline – Assignments of Referrals](#) for how it will be assigned.

The Investigating SW will inform the MPS Liaison of the following:

- new referral/allegations
- a case gets opened
- Multidisciplinary Team meeting (MDT), Child and Family Team meeting (CFT), and other case planning activities.

The MPS liaison will support the investigating SW communicating with and participating in any meetings regarding the minor parent. The MPS liaison will not complete any part of an investigation on a new referral/allegation.

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 the minor parent and child remain together in a safe home environment; ensuring the voice of the minor parent is heard in case planning; and ensuring a trauma informed perspective is used.
