

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF

FROM: DAVID B. KURT, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: YOUTH BANK ACCOUNTS

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce the state legislative requirements and new case management practices concerning youth bank accounts. In 2018 the state legislature passed Section 431.056, RSMo., which states that, "A minor who is sixteen years of age or older and who is in the legal custody of the children's division, pursuant to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction shall be qualified and competent to contract for the opening of a checking or savings bank account with the consent of the children's division or the juvenile court. The minor shall be responsible for paying all banking related costs associated with the checking or savings account and shall be liable for any and all penalties should he or she violate a banking agreement. No state department, foster parent, or entity providing case management of children on behalf of a department shall be responsible for paying any bank fees nor liable for any and all penalties related to violation of a CCS SB 819 44 banking agreement."

This statute and related policy enhances the implementation of the "Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard," to reduce the systemic barriers which keep youth from participating in enrichment and skill development opportunities comparable to their peers who are not in care. Because youth in legal custody of the Children's Division experience challenges in developing long term supportive relationships with trusted adults, they are less likely to have an appropriate co-signer when opening a bank account. The experience of managing a bank account when youth begin working or handling their own money is an important developmental experience which can help prepare them for independence as adults. This statute and policy ensure that being in the legal custody of Children's Division is not a barrier to youth having a bank account and provides protocol for Children's Service Workers to assist youth seeking to open a bank account.

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT

Natalie Allen
314-416-2748
Natalie.N.Allen@dss.mo.gov

MANAGER CONTACT

Ivy Doxley
573-526-1422
Ivy.C.Doxley@dss.mo.gov

CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS

[Section 4 Chapter 5.13 Youth Bank Accounts](#)

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Consent Letter Youth Bank Accounts [CD-77](#)

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

[Checklist for Opening a Bank Account or Credit Union Account](#)
[Resources to Inspire/Casey Life Skills \(Pages 34-35\)](#)

RELATED STATUTE

[RSMo 431.056](#)