

Chapter: 8 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	Number: 8.H
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Policy:

This policy applies to clients who have been approved to receive home support services through the Choice in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL) option (Policy 5.A.4), or for admission to a family care home (Policy 6.E).

For the purposes of this section:

child means a child, any age, of the client, including stepchildren, adoptive children, daughters-in-law and sons-in-law.

parent means a parent of the client, including parents-in-law, stepparents and adoptive parents.

immediate family member means a parent, child or spouse.

spouse means a person who is married to the client, or is living in a marriage-like relationship and for the purposes of this definition, the marriage or marriage-like relationship may be between persons of the same gender.

family member means anyone who is related to the client by blood, marriage, adoption or custom adoption (e.g. children, grandparents, etc).

General

A family member, except an immediate family member, may be paid to provide care for a CSIL or family care home client.

A family member who is paid to provide care for a client must comply with all policies, procedures and standards that apply to these services, and cannot be a member of a client support group.

Health authorities are required to discuss with the client or client support group the following risks associated with paying a family member:

- the potential risk for conflicts of interest;
- the potential risk to negatively impact the health and quality of life of the client and caregiver; and
- if the client has complex care needs and is considering having only one family member providing care, whether that situation is realistic and appropriate.

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Exception to Allow Payment to an Immediate Family Member

An immediate family member cannot be paid to provide care for a client unless an exception is approved by the health authority. In order to be considered for an exception, the client or client support group must submit an application for an exception in the required form.

An exception may be made to pay an immediate family member if the following four criteria are met:

1. the client or client support group wishes to pay an immediate family member to provide assessed services that the health authority would otherwise provide either through CSIL or a family care home.
2. the health authority has determined there is no appropriate and available caregiver to provide for any extraordinary or unique needs of the client for one or more of the following reasons:
 - nature and degree of care required.
 - rural or remote location.
 - cultural barriers.
 - communication barriers.
3. the family circumstances of the client have been considered.
4. the client's care plan includes appropriate respite for the immediate family member.

Health authorities are required to review the exception on a regular basis. Approval may be withdrawn if the health authority determines:

- the criteria no longer apply, or
- the client's needs are not being met.