
CHAPTER 14: CHILDREN'S CHOICE WAIVER

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SELF-DIRECTION OPTION

Self-direction is a voluntary service delivery option which allows recipients to coordinate the delivery of Children's Choice Waiver services through an individual direct support professional rather than through a licensed, enrolled provider agency. The recipient becomes the employer of the direct service workers selected to provide the supports, and as the employer, the recipient or his/her authorized representative is responsible for recruiting, training, supervising and managing the direct service workers who have been hired.

A required component of this option is the use of a contracted fiscal/employer agent who will perform the recipient's employer-related payroll functions. A monthly administrative fee is deducted from the annual waiver service cap for the cost of the fiscal/employer agent. Support coordination services are also required for the development of the Plan of Care (POC), budget planning, ongoing evaluation of supports and services, and for organizing the various resources the recipient needs.

Recipients participating in this option must:

- Be a Children's Choice Waiver recipient,
- Understand the rights, risks, and responsibilities of managing his/her own care, and managing and using an individual budget, or if under 18 years of age or unable to make decisions independently, have a willing decision maker (authorized representative who is listed on the recipient's plan of care) who understands the rights, risks, and responsibilities of managing the care and supports of the recipient within the individualized budget,
- Be able to participate in this option without a lapse or decline in quality of care or an increased risk to his/her health and welfare,
- Adhere to the health and welfare safeguards identified by the team, including the application of a comprehensive monitoring strategy and risk assessment and management systems,
- Participate in the development and management of the approved budget, and
- Complete the mandatory training including rights and responsibilities of managing his/her own services and supports and individual budget offered by the support coordinator.

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NOTE: Direct care services workers must be at least 18 years of age on the date of hire and complete all mandated training.

Termination of the Self-Direction Service Option

Termination of participation in the self-direction service delivery option requires a revision of the POC, the elimination of the fiscal agent and adding the recipient's choice of a Medicaid-enrolled waiver service provider(s). Termination may be either voluntary or involuntary.

Voluntary Termination

Recipients utilizing the self-direction option can choose to return to traditional provider services at any time. The support coordinator will assist the recipient in transitioning to a service provider agency.

Involuntary Termination

Involuntary dismissal from the self-direction option may occur if:

- The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities determines that the health or welfare of the recipient is compromised by continued participation in the self-direction service delivery option.
- There is evidence that the recipient is no longer able to direct his/her care, and there is no authorized representative to direct the care.
- Over three payment cycles in a one year period, the recipient or the authorized representative:
 - places barriers to the payment of the salaries and related employment taxes of direct support staff,
 - fails to follow the approved budget,
 - fails to provide the required documentation of expenditures and related items, or
 - fails to cooperate with the fiscal agent or support coordinator in preparing any additional documentation of expenditures.
- There is proof of misuse of public funds by the recipient or responsible representative.