

HR Benefits Department

Grand Rapids Public Schools Group Health Plan Procedures for Handling Medical Child Support Orders

1. The plan administrator will designate a responsible individual, by name, title or both, to receive all medical child support orders (MCSOs) delivered to Grand Rapids Public Schools.
2. Employees who could receive the MCSOs will be instructed to deliver any medical child support order, and any domestic relations order which purports to be a medical child support order, to the individual designated for this purpose. The immediate delivery of any such order to the designated individual is absolutely necessary in order to minimize potential fiduciary liabilities for failing to act prudently as required by ERISA, including liabilities for uncovered medical expenses.
3. Upon receipt of a MCSO, the designated individual will:
 - (a) Forward a copy of the MCSO and related correspondence to the plan administrator or its designated representative to determine if the MCSO is a qualified MCSO ("QMCSO"); and
 - (b) Promptly notify the effected employee and each alternate recipient of (1) the receipt of the MCSO, (2) the plan's procedures for determining whether the MCSO is a QMCSO, and (3) the alternate recipient's right to designate a representative for the receipt of copies of notices to be sent to the alternate recipient with respect to the MCSO. If the alternate recipient is a minor, the notice will be sent in care of the custodial parent or legal guardian identified in the order.
4. If the MCSO is a National Medical Support Notice (as defined in ERISA Section 609(a)(5)(c)), the designated individual will notify the issuing agency, within 20 business days of the date of the notice, if the employee is not eligible for coverage under the plan or if state or federal withholding limitations prevent the withholding from the employee's income of the amount required to obtain coverage under the terms of the plan. (In which case, no coverage will be provided to the proposed alternate recipient).
5. Within a reasonable time after receipt of the MCSO, the designated individual, or legal counsel on his or her behalf, will review the MCSO and make a determination as to whether the MCSO meets all of the requirements for a QMCSO under ERISA. (See the Plan Administrator's QMCSO Determination Checklist for the factors to be used to determine the MCSO's status).
6. If the MCSO is a National Medical Support Notice, the notice will be deemed to be a QMCSO if it contains the name of the issuing agency, the name and mailing address of an employee who is participating under the plan, the name and mailing address of the alternate recipient(s) (or name and address of the official or agency which has been substituted for the mailing address of the alternate recipients) and identifies an underlying child support order. The designated individual, or legal counsel on his or her behalf, will determine whether the notice complies with the requirements of this paragraph.
7. The responsible individual, or legal counsel on his or her behalf, will notify the employee and each alternate recipient (or his/her designated representative or the issuing agency), in writing, of the determination as to the qualification of the MCSO as a QMCSO within a reasonable period of time after receipt of the order but not later than 40 business days after the date of the notice with respect to a National Medical Support Notice.

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8. If the MCSO fails to meet the requirement for a QMCSO, the notice described in 7 above will include an explanation of the deficiency. If the MCSO is a National Medical Support Notice, the designated individual will complete item 5 of the plan administrator response, sign the response and send it to the issuing agency.
9. If the MCSO is, or ultimately becomes, a QMCSO, the designated individual will (1) determine the coverage and benefit options available, if any, to the alternate recipient in accordance with these procedures, and (2) deliver applicable enrollment forms, plus filing instructions, a copy of the plan's current summary plan description, including any applicable summary of material modifications and benefit booklets or other benefit descriptions not included in the summary plan description or summary of material modifications, to each alternate recipient identified in the QMCSO or to his/her designated representative or the issuing agency.
10. If the QMCSO is a National Medical Support Notice, the plan administrator will notify the issuing agency, within 40 business days of the date of the notice, of the alternate recipient's eligibility for coverage, the effective date of coverage and, if necessary, the steps to be taken by the custodial parent or agency to obtain coverage for the alternate recipient. If the custodial parent must take any steps to obtain coverage, the plan administrator will provide a copy of the plan's current summary plan description, applicable enrollment forms and filing instructions to the custodial parent.
11. Coverage will be offered to the alternate recipient in accordance with the plan's terms as follows:
 - (a) If the employee is covered under the plan with family coverage, the alternate recipient will only be offered coverage in that same coverage option. However, the plan administrator should have the alternate recipient complete the plan's enrollment form. The enrollment form should be sent to the alternate recipient with the coverage option box selected and a cover letter should also be sent explaining that the alternate recipient may only receive coverage under the employee's existing coverage option, but that the other portions of the enrollment form need to be completed before the alternate recipient is covered under the plan.
 - (b) If the employee is receiving coverage under the plan, but the alternate recipient lives outside the network or HMO coverage area of the employee's coverage option, the plan administrator will allow the employee to elect a different option that will cover the alternate recipient. If the employee does not make a timely election, the custodial parent (or authorized issuing agency) may elect the coverage option and the employee's coverage will be changed to the option so elected.
 - (c) If the employee is not receiving coverage under the plan, the plan administrator will allow the employee to elect the coverage option that will apply to both the employee and the alternate recipient. If the employee does not elect a coverage option in a timely fashion, the alternate recipient's custodial parent (or issuing agency, in the case of a national medical support notice) may elect the coverage option. The employee will be required to be covered under the plan when the alternate recipient's coverage begins. **If the plan administrator does not hear from the alternate recipient's custodial parent or authorized issuing agency within 20 business days of the date the notice is sent to the alternate recipient's custodial parent or the issuing agency, the alternate recipient (and employee) will be enrolled in BCBSM.**
12. Upon receipt of fully completed enrollment forms, the plan administrator will enroll each alternate recipient as an eligible dependent of the employee in the plan in the coverage option available to the alternate recipient as determined in paragraph 11. The alternate recipient's coverage will be effective on the first day of the calendar month coincident with or following the receipt by the plan administrator of such fully completed enrollment forms. **The alternate recipient is not entitled to coverage or any type or form of benefit, or any option, not**

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otherwise offered by the plan. However, the alternate recipient is entitled to options such as dental and vision, if offered by the plan, even though the employee only has major medical coverage, if the employee is eligible for such coverage, and if the QMCSO states the alternate recipient is to have such coverage.

13. Effective as of the date the alternate recipient's coverage commences under the plan, the plan administrator may take any necessary steps to collect any applicable premium for the alternate recipient's coverage which the employee is required to pay pursuant either to the terms and conditions of the QMCSO or the terms and conditions of the plan. The means of collection may include, but is not limited to, pre-tax or post-tax payroll deductions.
14. Any claims submitted to the plan administrator for medical expenses incurred prior to the effective date of the alternate recipient's coverage under the plan will not be considered as eligible expenses and no payment or other reimbursements will be made for such expenses by the plan.
15. Any payment of plan benefits in reimbursement of eligible expenses paid by an alternate recipient, or by an alternate recipient's custodial parent or legal guardian on his/her behalf, will be made to the alternate recipient or to the applicable custodial parent or legal guardian.