



Memorandum

Date: July 13, 2007

To: Community Social Services Supervisors – EIA and EIA Rural Program Managers

From: Louis Leclerc, Acting Executive Director Employment and Income Assistance Programs

Telephone:

Subject: **For the Sake of the Children – Mandatory Attendance – Transportation Costs**

Effective May 15, 2007, a new court rule (Court of Queen's Bench Rules 70.24.1) made attendance **mandatory** for the Family Conciliation's parent information program 'For the Sake of the Children'. Mandatory attendance is applicable to all Manitobans, who are requesting or responding to requests for child custody, child access or private guardianship and live within specified boundaries or ordered by the courts and they have not attended this or a similar program within 2 years.

For the Sake of the Children requirements:

- All parties must attend an in-person session if they live in or within 100 km of the city of Winnipeg or Brandon.
 - Parties must attend either **two** – three hour sessions or one full Saturday (if available); these sessions are offered out of the Family Conciliation offices in Winnipeg and the FSH Regional office in Brandon
- All parties must attend an in-person session or view an electronic version of the program at a designated location, if they live in, or within 80 km (all weather roads) of Dauphin, The Pas, Flin Flon, Swan River or Thompson.
 - Parties must attend either **two** – three hour sessions or one full Saturday (if available) or view a CD rom; these sessions are typically offered at FSH Regional office.
- Persons residing outside of the 80 and 100 km zones are automatically exempt from participating in this program. However, the courts can order any exempted person to take the program as they feel appropriate.
- Persons attending the program will receive an attendance certificate. The certificate must then be filed with the courts.

More information on these requirements can be found in the attached brochure or on internet at www.manitobacourts.mb.ca or www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/for_sake_of_children.html.

EIA Procedures:

When there is no other feasible option available, EIA will provide transportation costs to participants who require assistance in attending this program and does not already have transportation allowance.

Winnipeg Community Area offices:

If a participant contacts the EIA office requesting bus tickets to attend this program, the EIA case coordinators should provide the participant with 1 bus ticket and advise them to obtain the remaining required tickets from the Family Conciliation office when they attend. The Family Conciliation office has been provided with bus tickets and record their case number, signature, name and number of tickets provided. This will also serve as confirmation of attendance and allow for tracking for expenditure purposes.

Brandon Community Area office:

Should bus transportation be required for residents within the city of Brandon, arrangements should be made with the Family Conciliation coordinator and advise EIA programs unit accordingly to arrange a tracking process.

All other offices providing EIA services:

Participants who reside outside of the Winnipeg & Brandon city limits and request transportation funds in order to attend the “For the Sake of the Children” program should be reimburse based on mileage in order to attend the closest program session. Transportation expenses should be calculated by using the applicable mileage rate as stated in section 22.3.1 of the policy manual. Participants should provide a statement of the kilometers and confirmation of attendance. In exceptional circumstances, attendance can be confirmed by contacting the closest regional Family Conciliation program.