

Family Personal Care Services – Program Termination

Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of frequently asked questions regarding the termination of Family the Personal Care Services (FPCS) benefit – *Spouses/Parents of Minor Children as Paid Direct Care Workers*.

Parent/Spouse FAQs

Why is the FPCS program being terminated?

Prior to the pandemic legally responsible individuals were expressly prohibited from being paid caregivers in both federal and state rules. This was allowed as a temporary flexibility during the federally declared Public Health Emergency. In late 2023, the department extended this flexibility using Idaho's 1115 demonstration waiver authority.

We have determined we have insufficient staff and financial resources to effectively administer this program and have identified many examples of suspected and confirmed fraud and abuse that the department cannot resolve within the program's current parameters and staff capacity.

Does this mean that my child/spouse will lose their Medicaid?

No. Participant eligibility for Medicaid coverage will not be affected.

I am currently the paid caregiver for my child/spouse, can I continue to be a paid caregiver?

Parents and spouses currently providing care as the paid direct care worker for their child(ren) or spouse may continue to do so until January 31, 2025. Effective February 1, 2025, parents of minor children and spouses may not be the paid care provider for Personal Care Services (PCS) or Attendant Care.

My family member just had their annual redetermination assessment and authorizations were approved for the entire year, does that mean I can be the paid caregiver until the authorizations end?

No. Annual redeterminations will be processed in alignment with current program requirements, including the submission of an annual FPCS Request Form, until early January 2025. All FPCS authorizations will be terminated as of January 31, 2025 and new authorizations will be issued accordingly.

I have submitted a request to be the paid caregiver, will it be approved?

New requests for FPCS will be processed in the order received until early January 2025. The BLTC will process requests within 30 days of submission. However, regardless of when an FPCS request is approved, all authorizations for FPCS will be terminated effective January 31, 2025 and the household will need to identify an alternate direct care worker for the participant(s).

What do I do to ensure my child/spouse receives the care they need?

Households should work with the Personal Assistance Agency (PAA) to identify an alternate direct care worker for the participant(s).

What if the agency I currently work with doesn't have available direct care workers?

Participants can contact other agencies to determine if they have available direct care workers. A list of agencies is available at <https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=27411&dbid=0&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS>

If a new direct care worker is not available, can I continue to be the paid caregiver until a new one is available?

No. As of January 31, 2025, parents of minor children and spouses are not permitted to be the paid direct care worker under for PCS or Aged and Disabled Waiver services under any circumstances. We encourage households to begin exploring alternatives as soon as possible.

Can I continue to be a paid direct care worker for the agency I am currently with?

Parents and spouses may work as a paid direct care worker as long as you are not the paid caregiver for your family member. You will need to work with the agency to determine if there are opportunities available to continue working.

Personal Assistance Agency FAQs

How will authorizations be managed for participants who have a parent/spouse as their paid caregiver?

- Current T1019 V1 authorizations will be terminated as of January 31, 2025.
- All quarterly RN Supervisory Nurse Visit authorizations for adults will be terminated as of January 31, 2025.
- For all FPCS participants, T1019 and S5125 authorizations will be created with a start date of February 1, 2025.
- Authorizations for adults enrolled with a duals' program will be issued by the respective managed care organization (Molina Healthcare of Idaho or Blue Cross of Idaho). *The BLTC will only be responsible for authorizations for adults not enrolled in a duals' program and children.*

What if we don't see new authorizations as of February 1, 2025?

If the participant is a child or a non-dual adult, please contact 877-799-4430.

If the participant is dual eligible, please contact the appropriate managed care organization by email:

- Blue Cross of Idaho: mmcp-mqm@bcidaho.com
- Molina Healthcare of Idaho: MHIDPriorAuthorizations@MolinaHealthCare.Com

What if after the FPCS program terminates, a parent/spouse does not disclose their relationship?

After the program has ended, the BLTC will resume making referrals to the Medicaid Program Integrity Unit if a parent/spouse is determined to be the rendering care provider for PCS or Aged and Disabled Waiver services. The BLTC recommends that agencies consider including a screening question when conducting intake and onboarding of new participants and employees.

What do we do as an agency to assist the participant?

Agencies should work with the participant and their family to identify alternate direct care workers to render care to their loved ones.

Is the agency responsible for contacting parents/spouses to alert them that the FPCS program is ending?

Yes. The BLTC does not have a method to individually contact households using the FPCS. The agency should ensure that all approved FPCS direct care workers are notified that they will not be allowed to be the paid caregiver for their family member as of January 31, 2025.

If a direct care worker cannot be found for the participant can the parent/spouse continue to be the paid direct care worker until one can be found?

No. As of January 31, 2025, parents of minor children and spouses are not permitted to be the paid direct care worker under for PCS or Aged and Disabled Waiver services under any circumstances.

What about the RN Supervisory Nurse Visit?

All RN Supervisory Nurse Visit authorizations for adult FPCS participants will be terminated as of January 31, 2025 and new ones will not be issued, unless the individual has an existing need for RN visits distinct from FPCS supervisory RN activities.

RN Supervisory Nurse Visits are still required during the last calendar quarter of 2024.

What about annual redeterminations prior to January 31, 2025?

All FPCS annual redeterminations will be processed in alignment with current program requirements until early January 2025. The BLTC will notify stakeholders when this process may be suspended. FPCS authorizations will be terminated effective January 31, 2025 and new authorizations for PCS and/or Attendant Care will be issued on February 1, 2025. The agency does not need to take any action to initiate this process.

The information outlined herein is not new law but is an agency interpretation of existing law, except as authorized by law or as incorporated into a contract. To seek additional information or provide input on the agency guidance document please reach out to BLTCQA@dhw.idaho.gov.