

Martin O'Malley,  
Governor

Anthony Brown  
Lt. Governor

Brenda Donald  
Secretary

Dear Foster Care Provider/Adoptive Parent

Thank you for your continued service to Maryland's children. Our goal is to keep you fully informed about the payments you receive for your service. As you already know, we have made some changes to the monthly payments that you receive through MD CHESSIE. All regular payments are now made as per diem payments. This means that your payments will be calculated based on the number of days in the previous month that a child was in your care. In response to questions received by the MD CHESSIE payment hotline, we are providing this detailed explanation of how this works out over a twelve month period of time.

There are seven months in the year which contain a total of 31 days, four months with a total of 30 days and 1 month (February) with a total of 28 or 29 days. Payments for the months containing 31 days will be higher than the monthly payments you had been receiving for children placed in your home the entire month. Payments made for months with a total of 30 days when children are placed in your home for the entire month will be slightly less. If you choose, you can calculate your monthly payments using the chart found on our website [www.dhr.state.md.us](http://www.dhr.state.md.us). Click on the **Adoption/Foster Care tab** at the top and then click on **Cost** under Foster Care at the left of the page. (You may also go directly to that page by using the following link: <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/ssa/foster/cost.php>. You will find a link in red that will take you to the calculator. Insert the monthly payment amount you had been receiving in the yellow box on the chart and then click on any space next to a month and your payment for each month will calculate. Remember you receive service payments for the number of days in the previous months. Should you need help with direct deposit, please call 1-888-784-0144.

Here are also the answers to some general questions regarding the per diem payment:

**Question:** With the per diem payment, am I being paid less?

**Answer:** No, because your payments increase when services are rendered for the 7 months with a total of 31 days. At the end of any twelve month period the total amount paid to you will be the same.

**Question:** Will I get paid at different times in the month?

**Answer:** No, your payment date will remain the same, the 11<sup>th</sup> of each month for adoptive parents and the 23<sup>rd</sup> for foster parents. Holidays may affect some payment dates.

Again, we thank you for your continued service to Maryland's children. We hope that this correspondence will help to reduce any confusion about this change. If you have any further questions regarding this new payment method or questions about your payments, please call the MD CHESSIE payment hotline at 1(877) DHR-2PAY (1-877-347-2729).

