

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID

Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual

CHAPTER 200 – Income: Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Categories

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200.07.15 SUPPORT PAYMENTS - SPOUSAL SUPPORT, ALIMONY

Alimony and support payments are cash contributions to meet some or all of a person's needs for food and shelter. Support payments may be made voluntarily or because of a court order. Alimony, sometimes call "maintenance" is an allowance made by a court from the funds of one spouse to the other spouse in connection with a suit for separation or divorce. Alimony and spousal support payments are counted as unearned income to the recipient.

Deeming

The income used to make court-ordered support payments by an ineligible spouse, ineligible parent or ineligible child is excluded from the deemor's income.

200.07.16 SUPPORT PAYMENTS – CHILD SUPPORT

A child support payment is payment from a parent to or for a child to meet the child's needs for food and shelter. Child support can be voluntary or court-ordered.

Absent Parent

An absent parent is a parent who does not live in the same household as the child. If periods of living together are brief and the child remains independent or under the care and control of another person, agency or institution, or is living in the home of another, the parent is usually considered absent unless the parent retains parental control and responsibility.

A parent is not considered absent if the parent is away due to employment, intends to resume living with the child and retains parental control and responsibility. A child (or parent) who is a boarding student in an educational facility is not considered absent.

200.07.16A TREATMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Child support payments (including arrearage payments) are unearned income to the child. An arrearage payment is one that was due, but not paid timely and is being paid to comply with an unfulfilled past obligation. Exclude one-third of the amount of the child support payment made to or for an eligible child by an absent parent.

Verify amount and frequency using court records, records of an agency where payments are made, documents in the individual's possession or contact with the source of the payment.

Effective Month: June 2012