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Bulletin No. 96-72

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P-2230     Protective Payments

A.     General Information

Protective payments are instituted as a result of money mismanagement or sanctions. They may be made by a protective payee or by the worker using controlled vendor payments (CVP). If controlled vendor payments are made only for rent, they are called rent vendor payments (RVP).

You may determine money mismanagement in one of two ways: a rental arrearage equivalent to two months' rent (WAM 2235.1 [A][1]) or a failure to pay essential bills (WAM 2235.1 [A][2]). This determination of the initial reason for money mismanagement is important because if it was for a rental arrearage, protective payments will continue pending a fair hearing (see WAM 2235.6 and P-2230 E).

Once the determination is made and no protective payee is available, the type of protective payments is dependent on what bills are to be vendored (see P-2230 B). If only rent is an issue, make protective payments using rent vendor payments (RVP). If more than rent is to be vendored (for example, if electricity has been past-due for several months), make protective payments using controlled vendor payments (CVP).

DEFINITIONS

Protective payee: a court-appointed guardian or a person suggested by the recipient and approved by the department. This person receives the ANFC benefit for the recipient and disburses the money to cover current expenses, and sometimes past-due expenses (WAM 2235 - 2235.4).

Controlled vendor payments (CVP): a type of protective payment used when expenses other than rent or in addition to rent are to be vendored. Payments are made from the recipient's ANFC benefit by a department worker to cover current expenses, and sometimes past-due expenses (WAM 2235.4). Use CVP when a protective payee is not available and the goal is to continue protective payments until the recipient is able to assume responsibility for money management. You must also use CVP for recipients being sanctioned under WAM 2351 (see P-2336 K).

Rent vendor payments (RVP): a type of controlled vendor payment used when only rent is to be vendored. ACCESS generates rent checks to the landlord on the same schedule as ANFC payments are made (60 percent of the rent on the first, 40 percent on the 16th). The balance of the ANFC benefit is sent to the recipient on the same schedule.