

## 10/26/05 Hosted Chat Room Log; Topic: "Subsidy"

**Barbara Rall** - logged off - using Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1) on 10/26 at 10:02pm CST)

**SubsidyGal** - Good night

**Barbara Rall** - I'm am logging off now and I will close the chat room

**SubsidyGal** - Ok let us know if we can be of any assistance with subsidy issues

**Barbara Rall** - I hope we can meet in person some day as well.

**Barbara Rall** - About 5,000 people per month visit our site, although not all of them are interested in subsidy

**Barbara Rall** - And, I will check with the webmaster tomorrow to be sure we have up to date links on our site.

**SubsidyGal** - it had been a pleasure chatting with you someday maybe we will meet

**Barbara Rall** - It's regretful that no one joined us tonight, but I feel better informed and will share this info with my staff

**SubsidyGal** - Oh you are very welcome. We welcome questions, comments, concerns

**Barbara Rall** - This is a complex subject and we often have questions at NJARCH about subsidy

**SubsidyGal** - Its quite typical for learning problems to come into play when a child starts school

**Barbara Rall** - Subsidy Gal, thank you so much for joining us tonight

**SubsidyGal** - If there child experiences unexpected changes in functioning whether it be medical, psychological or physical then we can do a review of the subsidy rate to make sure they are on the correct rate

**Barbara Rall** - Why would someone need to renegotiate the subsidy amount?

**SubsidyGal** - Subsidies can be renegotiated but extensive documentation is required

**SubsidyGal** - Yes families can expect sub increases when their children age up to 6, 10, and 13 and their are cost of living increases generally every August, given their is a government surplus

**SubsidyGal** - yes we feel for those who are genuinely in need of that monthly check

**Barbara Rall** - We are almost through the hour. Is there any other information you would like people to know?

**Barbara Rall** - that's good to hear, I know it's frustrating for folks who really need the money to wait for an answer

**SubsidyGal** - email is a great method of getting a quick response and referring to our website for info is a good idea

**SubsidyGal** - We need more staff and more is on the way

**SubsidyGal** - ooh, supposed to be 2-3 days, but honestly the program now in Trenton is working out some quinks

**Barbara Rall** - What is the turn around time when folks leave a message?

**SubsidyGal** - They can call the 1.800.847.5027 and leave a message in the box appropriate to their problem

**Barbara Rall** - It would be good to provide the toll free number here for folks

**SubsidyGal** - perhaps they feel the foster care provider backlash would be too great if subsidy families got direct deposit and not them

**Barbara Rall** - When folks have a question, would you prefer that they call or e-mail?

**Barbara Rall** - I'm sure there must be some legitimate reason

**SubsidyGal** - I hear welfare in FL has direct deposit but NJ won't budge on it

**SubsidyGal** - Our feeling is that the subsidy population is not so changeable however, foster care is

**SubsidyGal** - The powers to be feel if they cannot do direct deposit for the foster care population then they cannot do it for anyone.

**Barbara Rall** - For years I have had my paycheck direct deposited and I know that folks who get social security are encouraged to do direct deposit

**SubsidyGal** - Precisely. Families get frustrated with us when we tell them they cannot negotiate it w/o a bank penalty

**Barbara Rall** - I don't know why direct deposit wouldn't be a good idea

**Barbara Rall** - So many times the day after one stops payment, the check shows up and it's no longer good

**SubsidyGal** - Wouldn't that make life easier...Actually Trenton does not think so. They have tossed around the idea but feel that it would not be a good idea for the foster care providers

**Barbara Rall** - Stop payments are expensive and a real hassle.

**SubsidyGal** - we ask families to hold off on stop payments because once the request is in it takes 2 weeks or more for a replacement check to go out

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**SubsidyGal** - On Monday the 24th we were allowed to make stop payment requests

**Barbara Rall** - Has DYFS considered doing direct deposit for subsidy checks?

**SubsidyGal** - they should not contact us til the latter part of the month

**Barbara Rall** - So families shouldn't contact you about a missing check until the second half of the month

**SubsidyGal** - families need to know that when Trenton cuts the check and hands it over to the USPS then it is out of our hands

**SubsidyGal** - we tell families to expect the checks between the 10th - 15th working day of every month, holidays can affect this

**SubsidyGal** - the family choses an attorney who will accept the subsidy legal fee of \$475.00

**Barbara Rall** - Do all of the subsidy checks go out the same day of the month or are the payments staggered over the course of the month

**SubsidyGal** - this excludes legal fees, which we pay to lawyer's separately

**Barbara Rall** - legal fees?

**SubsidyGal** - when our families adopt then they can claim up to 2000.00 for expenses related to the adoption

**Barbara Rall** - Can you give me an example of a non recurring expense?

**SubsidyGal** - k-100's are used for many different purposes

**SubsidyGal** - they are also used to pay providers for non recurring adoption expenses

**SubsidyGal** - like when we miss a monthly payment or the payment needs an adjustment than the k100 is used

**Barbara Rall** - What kinds of costs?

**SubsidyGal** - k100's are used to pay providers or reimbursement for costs incurred

**SubsidyGal** - Girls are nice. I have 2, no boys

**Barbara Rall** - I don't know much about k-100's. Can you tell me what they are?

**Barbara Rall** - Yes, she is the only girl of my four kids and has given my husband and me great joy

**SubsidyGal** - Sounds like a great kid and a great life

**Barbara Rall** - Yes, she lives on her own in California--she works in public finance

**SubsidyGal** - Wow - she is all grown up

**SubsidyGal** - most definately. Separation and loss issues are most prevalent.

**Barbara Rall** - She is now 30 years old

**Barbara Rall** - When you have a history, there are certainly issues that need to be worked through

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**SubsidyGal** - Oh wonderful, how long ago

**Barbara Rall** - I understand that. I have a daughter who joined our family at age 8

**SubsidyGal** - So in that age range you get children with a history and needs

**Barbara Rall** - It's great if kids can stay with families they already know and love

**SubsidyGal** - That is right and most of the adoptions are children ages 7-12

**Barbara Rall** - I have been told that 80% of kids in foster care are adopted by their foster parents

**SubsidyGal** - The subsidy is a great incentive for assisting in a small way to the success of the child's future

**SubsidyGal** - we have had great luck with finding great families for our special kids

**SubsidyGal** - There are many wonderful folks who have adopted very challenging children

**SubsidyGal** - Yes, whatever. We just ask that it be used for the child and do not monitor its use

**Barbara Rall** - It's a great idea because I know some of these kids are challenging to raise

**SubsidyGal** - if a family moves out of state they apply for Adoption Assistance Medicaid in their new state

**Barbara Rall** - So folks can use the money for summer camp or soccer gear or babysitting?

**SubsidyGal** - Yes, it's a package, can't get one w/o the other

**Barbara Rall** - The kids get Medicaid as well, don't they?

**SubsidyGal** - the subsidy program is growing with the onset of Kinship Gsp. cases - they get subsidy too.

**SubsidyGal** - for the children's future needs or whatever they deem its use for

**Barbara Rall** - Wow!! 9,000 cases; it sound like an administrative nightmare

**SubsidyGal** - It is a very big ticket program

**Barbara Rall** - What is it expected folks will use the subsidy for?

**SubsidyGal** - We have over 9000 subsidy cases

**SubsidyGal** - Yes, most of the children we place for adoption are hard to place special needs children

**SubsidyGal** - We do encourage our families to be straight up but when they get the children at a young age they feel differently

**Barbara Rall** - Let's talk about subsidy--do most folks who adopt from DYFS get some kind of subsidy?

**SubsidyGal** - Must be difficult to transition to a search

**Barbara Rall** - On the other hand, there are folks whose adoptive parents are very supportive about the search

**Barbara Rall** - Sometimes the folks didn't even know they were adopted until they were adults

**SubsidyGal** - Ok, right must be harder when there may not be good records to refer to

**Barbara Rall** - Many of the folks who approach us for info were placed by attorneys who did not keep the records or sometimes even falsified the records

**Barbara Rall** - DYFS is much more straightforward about searching and has better records

**Barbara Rall** - Most of the folks who ask us about search and reunion were placed by private agencies or attorneys

**SubsidyGal** - I know that Mary and Delores have a 6 month backlog on searches

**Barbara Rall** - No, but that's a good idea.

**Barbara Rall** - While there was no one on tonight, there are often one or two visitors

**SubsidyGal** - interesting, have you ever had our gals in the Adoption Registry participate

**Barbara Rall** - she now helps other folks who are interested in searching

**Barbara Rall** - It is moderated by a volunteer who searched and found her birth family

**Barbara Rall** - The chat from 8 to 9 twice a month is about search and reunion

**SubsidyGal** - What was your earlier chat about?

**SubsidyGal** - that would be great, although I am new to Trenton and may not know who it is

**Barbara Rall** - I can email you that name

**SubsidyGal** - yes lots of things are changing around about us

**SubsidyGal** - Will do, who prepared it?

**Barbara Rall** - It may be that some of our info is out of date

**Barbara Rall** - You are so close to all the changes

**Barbara Rall** - We would appreciate your review.

**Barbara Rall** - It was prepared for us by a retired DYFS employee who worked in that department

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**SubsidyGal** - I will make it a point to read and feedback

**SubsidyGal** - no I'm sorry I did not

**Barbara Rall** - We would appreciate any feedback you can give us

**Barbara Rall** - Did you have a chance to read through it?

**SubsidyGal** - I did see that when I came on last night

**Barbara Rall** - It should have those direct links on it so folks can go to your site.

**SubsidyGal** - ok

**Barbara Rall** - We have a page on our site that gives a basic explanation of how subsidy works

**SubsidyGal** - we have an email address too - [AdoptionKinshipSubsidy@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:AdoptionKinshipSubsidy@dhs.state.nj.us)

**Barbara Rall** - I need to double check that there is a direct link on our site to yours

**Barbara Rall** - We save a copy of the hosted chat so folks who missed it can review it on the web site

**SubsidyGal** - [www.njadoptionsubsidy.org](http://www.njadoptionsubsidy.org)

**Barbara Rall** - Can you type in the address of the web site?

**Barbara Rall** - Oh, about once a week, although it was more frequent after that mass mailing was sent out in early August

**SubsidyGal** - sure i have the address for anyone who is interested

**SubsidyGal** - you do how often is regular

**Barbara Rall** - Perhaps you will share some information about the new web site

**Barbara Rall** - we do get phone calls on a regular basis asking about susidy

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**SubsidyGal** - yes lets hope folks are still up

**Barbara Rall** - It will be interesting to see how many people sign on

**SubsidyGal** - your directions were just right

**Barbara Rall** - We have done a great deal of publicity for this chat.

**Barbara Rall** - Good night moderator, see you in two weeks

**Moderator** - logged off - using Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US; rv:1.7.12) Gecko/20050915 Firefox/1.0.7 on 10/26 at 8:59pm CST)

**Barbara Rall** - I see you didn't have a difficulty signing on

**SubsidyGal** - Hello How are you

**Moderator** - Good night from Search and Reunion

**Barbara Rall** - Hi Subsidy Gal, welcome to the chat

**SubsidyGal** - Good evening

\*\*SubsidyGal REMOTE\_HOST(IP) - 70.104.70.111

**SubsidyGal** - logged on. - using Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1; .NET CLR 1.1.4322) on 10/26 at 8:58pm CST)