

Meeting one child's need.



Moving one family forward.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Do you work with a parent?

If so, we will want to know:

- What exactly will the assistance you request be used for.
- Does each parent work, and if not, why not.
- What are parents' sources of income.
- Do both parents help and if not why not.
- Are parents collecting child support, DTA, and/or SSDI, and if not, why not.
- Has budgeting assistance been provided.
- How are they trying to help themselves.
- What is 'the plan' for after OCH assistance runs out.
- OCH is unable to provide long term assistance.

Are you asking that OCH pay an outstanding bill?

If so, we will want to know:

- What is the bill exactly for.
- Why is your client unable to pay it.
- How much is the bill per month.
- How long has your client been unable to pay it for.
- What is the total amount your client owes on this bill.
- If OCH is able to help now how it is envisioned your client will be able to pay going forward.
- Is your client getting help with budgeting.
- Can a repayment plan be set up. If not, why not. (Often if you approach companies when bills are overdue, you can create a 'repayment plan' if a certain sum is paid right now. Please tell us what amount would be needed to do this, and how, if we could help pay that, your client could pay the remainder over time.)

Are you asking that OCH help with rent?

If so, we will want to know:

- How much is actually due.
- How many months is client behind.
- If more than one month behind, please explain why.
- How much is the rent per month.
- Has client negotiated with landlord.
- Is client currently actually in danger of being evicted.
- Can the client pay any portion of rent money requested.
- Do children get child support or SSDI. If not, why not.
- What are the impediments to getting RAFT.
- Is anyone helping with budgeting.
- If OCH can help in some way this time, how will they pay going forward.

Are you asking for help for a child in foster care?

If so, we will want to know:

- How is DCF helping, and if not, why not.
- Is a reduced price possible.
- Where else have you looked for this assistance as other organizations also help this population.

Are you asking for help with driving lessons?

If so, we will want to know:

- Is there a car to practice with and someone to take them practicing.
- Will there be a car to drive when completing the course.
- How much can DCF pay if OCH also helps.
- How much can the youth and the family pay.
- Also, we are unable to pay the whole amount.

Is this a Delinquency case?

If so, we will want to know:

- Is child's contribution to the cost of this item a part of Court's expectation.
- If not, is child or their family able to pay any portion of this amount, or not. Please explain.
- Are you willing to tell the court OCH helped with this cost.
- Lastly, is it possible to file a motion for funds for this. If not, why not.

Does your client need "everything"?

If so, you need to know:

- OCH assistance pays for urgent needs that fix a specific problem which helps a child or family move forward. OCH is not large enough to fix giant multi-issue problems with no other solutions in sight. We can only pay for assistance that will solve a problem.

Are you asking for a gift card?

If so, you need to know:

- Only certain stores are used for gift cards.
- Amounts over \$150 require receipts be uploaded in order to receive full amount approved.
- If \$150 or under is approved, please review receipts yourself to ensure card was used responsibly. We appreciate it and it is good information for you to know.

Is your family working with DCF?

If so, you need to know:

- Depending on the amount involved, OCH may only be able to pay a portion of a cost, but not all.
- Can DCF match us. We have been quite successful in getting DCF to chip in when we do. Please ask.
- Is your request something DCF should be paying for but can't. Please explain.

Are you requesting assistance for a drug screen?

If so, you need to know:

- Unless it is a dire emergency, OCH always requires when drug screens are being requested, that a motion for funds out of the indigent court costs act first be filed and acted upon. We find most courts allow them or instruct probation to do these tests themselves.

Did DCF take away the family's SSDI money?

If so, you need to know:

- Attorneys have access to very specific motions to file which prevent DCF from taking (or to make them give back) the SSDI money especially when a parent is doing well! CAFL has them!

P.O. Box 55, Newton, MA 02468 (617) 930-3468
www.onecanhelp.org