

NOTICE TO MONTEREY COUNTY EMPLOYEES REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MINOR DEPENDENTS

The County Administration has been informed that minor dependent children of permanent County employees are NOT eligible for health insurance coverage under the State Healthy Families Program. This is stated in Healthy Families Program Application Booklet.

State Regulations (Title 10: California Code of Regulations, Chapter 5.8 Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board Healthy Families Program, Article 2 Eligibility, Application, and Enrollment, Section 2699.6600 Application, Subsection (c)) require that an applicant must declare:

[T]hat each person for whom application is being made is not eligible for any California Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Health Benefits Program(s) or is eligible for a California Public Employees Retirement (PERS) Health Benefits Program but the employer contribution is less than \$10.

If you have been advised that it is legal to enroll your dependent children in the Healthy Families program this information is not correct.

Legal counsel for the California Managed Risk Insurance Board has informed the County that enrollment of minor dependent children in Healthy Families health insurance coverage under the above-stated conditions constitutes fraud. County employees might be held liable for repayment of any claims paid on behalf of the child under the Healthy Families system. In addition, the County might be assessed financial penalties (fines) if it was determined the County had knowledge that the child was not eligible.

Employees are urged to contact the California Managed Risk Insurance Board at 1-800-880-5305 if they have any questions about the law or the Healthy Families Program.

This notice discharges the County's obligation to notify employees of potential liability and violations of State law. The County assumes no liability for misrepresentations made about the Health Families Program. If a County employee has provided advice inconsistent with this notice please contact the County Administrative Office at 755-5115 (Steve Mauck, County Risk Manager).