



F.Y.I.

from the Policy Unit

FYI-078

Date: February 17, 2016

SUBJECT: New Jersey Emancipation

Please contact the Policy Unit if you have any questions regarding these or any other changes at
[GEARUP>DCSE Collaboration – Teams>Policy Questions](#) or 602-771-8127
The IV-D PARTNERS should send POLICY inquiries directly to DCSS-POLICYQUESTIONS@azdes.gov

Previously, under NJ law, a parent providing support was required to file a motion to emancipate a child and terminate the order. This led to many parents continuing to pay support long after their child had grown because they were not familiar with the law or did not have the means to terminate it.

New Jersey recently enacted a law to terminate child support and medical support without an order at the age of 19 years, or if the child marries, enters military service, or dies before the age of 19. The effective date for this law is February 1, 2017.

The new law allows a parent to request a continuation of child support and/or medical support beyond the age of 19 under the following circumstances:

- The child still attends high school;
- The child attends full-time college, vocational or graduate school;
- The child is disabled;
- The parties reach a separate agreement; or
- The court grants continued support.

If there are younger children on the order, the existing order shall continue until modified by a court order.

Any arrears existing when support terminates remain due and are enforceable.

For families that currently have a child already over the age of 19, child support will end on February 1, 2017 rather than on the child's 19th birthday, as the new law is phased in. If the support order states a termination date other than the child's 19th birthday, that date will stand.

A spreadsheet of cases with NJ support orders and children over the age of 21 has been distributed to each of the Regional Program Managers. Please review, determination the correct action, and follow up with NJ on these cases