

County of Financial Responsibility (COFR) Dispute Resolution Committee - Case 2007-3

Committee:	Mark Kielhorn	Department of Community Health
	Pam Pekelder	Ottawa Community Mental Health
	Doug Ward	Community Mental Health for Central Michigan

The Committee met in person and via conference call on April 20, 2007 concerning a dispute between two county CMHSP's. CMHSP representatives from the two counties participated to explain the case and the rationale for each CMHSP's position.

Issue: A child lived with his parents in County A until the age of six. At that time the parents' parental rights were legally terminated and the child was placed in a facility in County B as a ward of the State. The child is now turning 19, leaving the children's system, and requesting placement in County B.

County B contends that the COFR was County A when the child was placed. Because the individual has never lived independently, the COFR has never changed. It should be the same as when an adult consumer enters a jail/prison. It should be County A, the county where the parents lived when parental rights were terminated.

County A says that the COFR Amendment (IIB) says that "When all parental rights have been terminated, the COFR shall be where the child lives." Therefore, because the individual lives in County B, County B should be the COFR.

Resolution: County B is the COFR. The Amendment statement is very clear: "When all parental rights have been terminated, the COFR shall be where the child lives."

Contract: A draft change to the Amendment would say that the COFR in this situation would be the county where the parents resided at the time of the termination of parental rights