



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Family and Community Services

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Anchorage

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August 21, 2026

Administration of Children and Families
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
Attn: Assistant Secretary Alex J. Adams

Dear Assistant Secretary Adams,

The State of Alaska, Department of Family and Community Services, wishes to formally notify the Administration for Children and Families of a policy change beginning in December 2025, under which all Social Security survivor benefits received on behalf of children in foster care are deposited into custodial accounts and preserved in full for the exclusive benefit of the child. These funds are not used to offset the cost of care or maintenance.

A limited, youth-directed exception applies for older youth who may voluntarily request access to a portion of their benefits for specific, individualized needs that fall outside what the State can provide under statute. Such requests must be initiated by the youth.

This policy reflects Alaska's commitment to safeguarding children's inherited benefits and ensuring that these resources support long-term stability, future needs, and a successful transition into adulthood. The Office of Children's Services is implementing procedures to promote transparency, documentation, and youth-centered decision-making while upholding the integrity of preserved benefit funds.

We appreciate ACF's continued leadership on this issue, and Alaska remains committed to upholding the financial rights of children in our care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy A. Dompeling".

Tracy A. Dompeling
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Family and Community Services