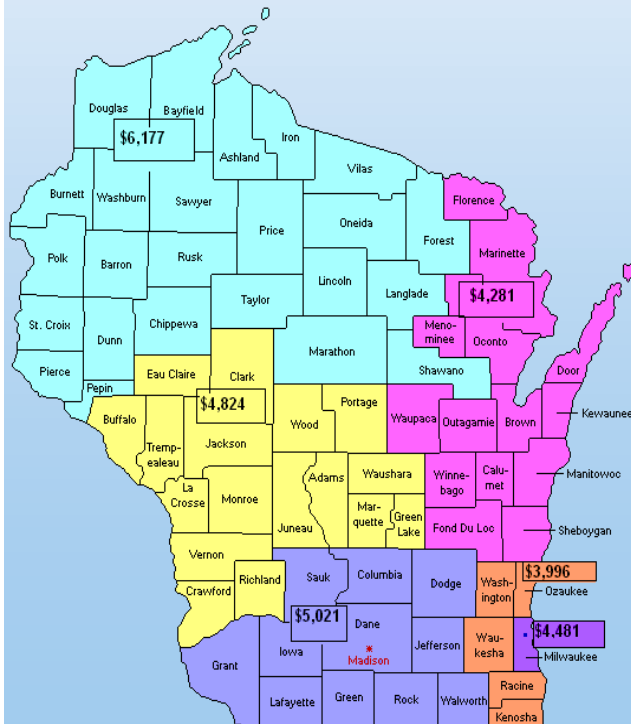


## Average Regional Birth Costs

Average Medicaid HMO Birth Costs for Live Births (no additional cost for multiple births or Caesarean births)

- Region 1: \$6,177
- Region 2: \$4,281
- Region 3: \$4,824
- Region 4: \$5,021
- Region 5: \$3,996
- Region 6: \$4,418



## Contact ABC for Health

Call or email if you have questions about the BadgerCare Plus Birth Cost Recovery program:

Mike Rust:  
(715) 485-8525  
[miker@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:miker@co.polk.wi.us)

General Line:  
(608) 261-6939

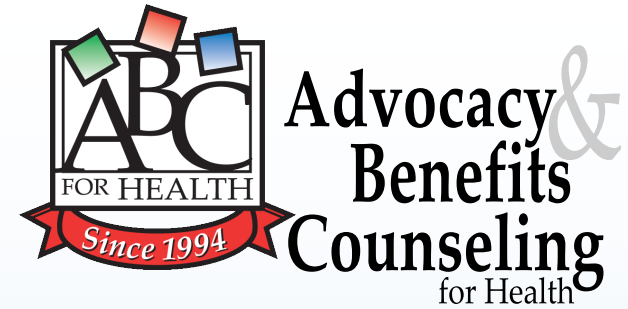
Toll Free Line:  
(800) 585-4222



ABC for Health is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to ensuring health care access for children and families, particularly those who are at risk or those with special needs.

### Madison

32 N. Bassett St.  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
(608)261-6939  
(800) 585-4222  
[www.abcforhealth.org](http://www.abcforhealth.org)  
[info@safetyweb.org](mailto:info@safetyweb.org)



# Birth Cost Recovery:

**A Guide for Pregnant Women on BadgerCare Plus & Their Families**



## Does the Birth Cost Recovery Policy Apply to Me?

Wisconsin law says a court can order a new father to pay all or part of a woman's prenatal and birth costs if he was not married to the baby's mother when she applied for BadgerCare Plus. The family is referred to the Child Support Agency (CSA) so they can collect repayment of birth cost.

The baby's father may not be required to pay if:

- He is married to the child's mother;
- The parents already had a child together;
- The father's income was included in the BadgerCare Plus application.

## What if I Don't Identify the Baby's Father?

Pregnant women are asked to identify the father of the child. If you do not, you may be deemed "non-cooperative" and later be ineligible for BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid.

You can refuse to identify the father if you have a good reason, called "**good cause**," such as:

- It will result in physical and/or emotional harm to you or the child,
- The pregnancy is a result of incest or sexual assault, or
- A petition for the child's adoption has been filed with the court.

A **good cause claim form** must be filed with an Income Maintenance Agency. The insert in this brochure explains more on good cause.

## How Does CSA Determine the Birth Costs Owed?

CSA must ask the court to set the lower amount of:

- 5% of the father's monthly income over a 36 month period, or
- Half the regional average amount for birth costs, or
- Half the actual birth costs up to the full regional amount for birth costs.

*\*See back of pamphlet for regional map.*

If private insurance paid for any of the costs, the amount owed by the father should be reduced by that amount.



### Resources and Where to Learn More:

- State Website for Birth Cost Recovery: [dcf.wi.gov/bcs/benefits/birth\\_costs.htm](http://dcf.wi.gov/bcs/benefits/birth_costs.htm)
- You can calculate your "Federal Poverty Level" (FPL) using an online calculator: [www.safetyweb.org/fpl.php](http://www.safetyweb.org/fpl.php)
- Find your Income Maintenance Agency: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/)

## How Much Does the Father Have to Pay?

If a father is between 75-150% of the Federal Poverty Level, CSA uses a chart to determine maximum birth cost orders for income over a 36 month period:

Monthly Income Range	Percent Range	Max Birth Cost Judgment
\$718-\$793	3.30-3.48%	\$853-\$993
\$818-\$893	3.54-3.73%	\$1,042-\$1,199
\$918-\$993	3.79-3.97%	\$1,253-\$1,419
\$1,018-\$1,093	4.03-4.21%	\$1,477-\$1,657
\$1,118-\$1,193	4.27-4.45%	\$1,719-\$1,911
\$1,218-\$1,293	4.51-4.70%	\$1,978-\$2,188
\$1,318-\$1,393	4.76-4.94%	\$2,259-\$2,477
Up to \$1,436	5.00%	Up to \$2,585

## What Happens if the Father Does Not Pay?

The father may have his wages garnished, taxes intercepted, or have some public benefits denied or revoked.

CSA should only pursue birth costs from fathers who have been determined to have an ability to pay. CSA should not ask for birth costs if the father has an inability to pay. However, a court may choose to impute income or set an order later once the father has gained an ability to pay.