



*Advocacy & Benefits Counseling for Health, Inc.  
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**Birth Cost Recovery Update - "The Birth Tax"**

**July 14, 2020**

Hello Partners,

ABC for Health continues to track birth cost recovery policy in Wisconsin. We call the policy the "birth tax," due to the harsh and often unexpected financial impact on unmarried pregnant women and families seeking BadgerCare Plus in Wisconsin. Counties have certain flexibility in implementing this policy and recently some, like Dane County, have abolished the practice. Others, like Milwaukee County, continue to debate the inequities and practice of collecting the Birth Tax.

**Update: Milwaukee County Board Committee on Finance Will Discuss BCR Resolution This Week**

The [Resolution](#) requesting the Milwaukee County Department of Child Support Services discontinue the discretionary practice of pursuing birth cost recovery collections in child support cases in Milwaukee County will be before the Finance Committee on **Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 9:30am**.

The Resolution appears as Item 13 on the Committee's robust [agenda](#).

This meeting will be live-streamed: <https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

**Submitting Comments to the Committee:**

The Agenda for the virtual committee meeting includes instructions for submitting comments using the County Legislative Information Center's (CLIC) "e-comment" function.

*As of the writing of this update, however, the e-comment function did not appear to be available.*

In the past, the Committee was able to receive public written comments submitted by email to all members of the Committee on Finance via [FINANCE@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:FINANCE@milwaukeecountywi.gov) at least an hour before the scheduled start of the meeting.

The Birth Cost Recovery Resolution can be referenced as [File #20-266](#) in emails to the committee.

This update is for informational purposes only.

Regards,

[Brynne McBride](#)

ABC for Health, Inc.