

Determining IV-E Eligibility When Initial Custody is Agency Authority or Officer Acceptance

When an agency legal status of **Officer Acceptance** or **Agency Authority** has been recorded within the **Legal Custody/Status** area of SACWIS (by accessing the **Maintain Custody & Status** link for a child), this information automatically populates the **Custody Begin Date** in the system. Although this is not a judicially determined custody type, it is the beginning of a custody episode.

The system will then generate a pending **Initial IV-E FCM Eligibility Determination** record. However, no legal status information will be pulled into the determination as **Officer Acceptance** and **Agency Authority** are not valid custody types for IV-E Eligibility.

Once a judicially determined custody type has been entered, the custody information will be pulled forward, including any rulings for **Best Interest** and **Reasonable Efforts**. Therefore, you should wait until the child's judicially determined custody type is entered into SACWIS, as well as the applicable **Best Interest** and **Reasonable Efforts** rulings, prior to determining IV-E FCM Eligibility for a child.

Important: Prior to saving the record, you will also have to modify the **Effective Date** of the eligibility determination as the system automatically defaults to the date of the **Initial Agency Legal Status** and the child is not actually eligible until the agency receives a judicially determined custody type, as well as **Best Interest** and **Reasonable Efforts**.

For example, if **Officer Acceptance** is recorded on 3/1/12, the pending Initial IV-E FCM Eligibility Determination record will reflect an effective date of 3/1/12. If the agency then receives a Temporary Court Order, Best Interest, and Reasonable Efforts on 3/2/12, you will need to modify the effective date to reflect 3/2/12.

If custody is terminated prior to the agency receiving a judicially determined custody type, the pending Eligibility Determination record will be end-dated.

For instructions on court activities associated with creating and terminating custody episodes, refer to the **Recording a Legal Status and Custody Episode** Knowledge Base Article.