

## Birthing Cost Information

To: **Red Cliff Tribal Members and Tribal Programs**

From: The Red Cliff Child Support Program  
Betty Kerr, Director

Date: January 22, 2013

Attached: Birth-Cost Satisfaction of Judgments-Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

The Red Cliff Child Support Program is in its planning phase. Currently, we are not providing direct child support services; however, we are working towards the goal of receiving federal approval to open a full service Child Support Services Program by April of next year. We will begin having community informational sessions to explain the program and request community input.

One thing we have done thus far is requested a waiver from the State of Wisconsin to have all current and future birthing costs that have been assessed to Red Cliff Tribal Members eliminated. This process has been completed and our request has been granted.

### **What does this mean?**

In the past if the mother and father of a child were not married and received Badger Care during the pregnancy, the State of Wisconsin would assign (charge) birthing costs to the non-custodial parent of the child

As of December 3, 2012 the State of WI will no longer take this action against Red Cliff Tribal Members. **All current debt for birthing costs will be removed and in the future birthing costs will no longer be charged to Red Cliff Tribal Members.** This also means that your taxes will not be intercepted for birthing costs (this does not mean that they will not be intercepted for child support arrears).

We have worked with the State of WI to automate the removal of Red Cliff Tribal Members birthing costs; however, we are not certain that we have gotten everyone with birthing costs assigned to them. You may have received a letter from the county where your Child Support Order originated saying your birthing costs have satisfied (paid off). If you did receive a letter from the county, you are fine and everything has been taken care of. If you know you have birthing costs (not child support costs) assigned and have not received a letter, please call the county where the costs are assigned, inform them you are a Red Cliff Tribal Member and refer them to the attached letter. If you do not get satisfaction from the county, please call our office and we will assist you (715) 779-3769.

In the future if you are called by a County Child Support Agency, inform them that you are a Red Cliff Tribal Member and birthing costs should not be assigned to you. This action does not apply to all Tribes in Wisconsin so you have to be clear and tell the Child Support Agency you (or the other parent) are a Red Cliff Tribal Member.