Section 351.1 Purpose

The purpose of this rule is to identify the resources which the Department will pursue in behalf of the children for whom it is legally responsible and to identify the resources which the Department will attempt to secure for the families it serves.

Section 351.2 Definitions

"Children for whom the Department is legally responsible" means children for whom the Department has temporary protective custody, custody or guardianship via court order, or children whose parent(s) have signed an adoptive surrender or voluntary placement agreement with the Department.

"Families served" means families of children for whom the Department has legal responsibility or families to whom the Department is providing child welfare services.

Section 351.3 Assisting Families in Securing Benefits

Families served by the Department through provision of child welfare services may be eligible for a variety of federal and other public benefits. Department staff will assist families in seeking the following benefits: Social Security benefits; Medicare benefits; Veteran's Administration benefits; Black Lung benefits; Railroad Retirement benefits; assistance allotments from the Armed Forces; Supplemental Security Income; aid from a legal assistance foundation; medical, financial and other services from public agencies and departments; and any other benefits available to the public.
Section 351.4 Securing Benefits for Children

a) The Department shall apply for benefits available to the public in behalf of the children for whom the Department is legally responsible. These include, but are not limited to: Social Security benefits, Veteran's Administration benefits, Black Lung benefits, Railroad Retirement benefits, assistance allotments from the Armed Forces, and Supplemental Security Income. These benefits are received and disbursed in accordance with Part 353, Children's Accounts.

b) Other resources used by the Department to provide services to children for whom the Department is legally responsible include, but are not limited to, the Illinois Departments of Public Aid, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Rehabilitation Services, Public Health, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Division of Services for Crippled Children.