

**234.8 Fees for child welfare services.**

The department may charge a fee for child welfare services to a person liable for the cost of the services. The fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of the services. The fee shall be based upon the person's ability to pay and consideration of the fee's impact upon the liable person's family and the goals identified in the case permanency plan. The department may assess the liable person for the fee and the means of recovery shall include a setoff against an amount owed by a state agency to the person assessed pursuant to [section 421.65](#). In addition the department may establish an administrative process to recover the assessment through automatic income withholding. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to implement the provisions of [this section](#). [This section](#) does not apply to court-ordered services provided to juveniles which are a charge upon the state pursuant to [section 232.141](#) and services for which the department has established a support obligation pursuant to [section 234.39](#).

[92 Acts, ch 1229, §24](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §216](#); [2020 Acts, ch 1064, §10, 28](#); [2020 Acts, ch 1118, §73, 74](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §673](#)

2020 amendment to this section is effective on the date of rules adopted by the department of revenue to implement 2020 Acts, ch 1064, see 2020 Acts, ch 1064, §28; 2020 Acts, ch 1118, §73, 74; the Code editor received notice that the system designed to implement the setoff procedures established in 2020 Acts, ch 1064, and the accompanying rules, will be operational on November 13, 2023; rules governing transition, see 2020 Acts, ch 1118, §72

See Code editor's note on simple harmonization at the beginning of this Code volume  
Section amended