Florida Medicaid Class Action: Who is affected?

If you're a Florida Medicaid enrollee who lost coverage after **March 31, 2023**, you might be part of a class action lawsuit called *Chianne D. v. Harris* **(formerly** *Chianne D. v. Weida)*. This case is about people who were found ineligible for Medicaid because of their income, but the termination notice didn't explain what income was used or the income limit that applied.

Who is in the Class?

The class certified in *Chianne D. v. Harris* consists of Florida Medicaid enrollees who, on or after March 31, 2023, have been or or will be found ineligible for Medicaid because their income exceeds the limit for eligibility and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) notice did not inform them about the income used or the limit that applied in making that determination.

Some people may have been unfairly denied Medicaid because DCF made mistakes in calculating income. You may be a class member if you received a notice after March 31, 2023, saying your Medicaid was ending (whether or not it mentioned income) or were placed in the Medically Needy program.

Who is considered a Class member?

The Court's ruling applies only to individuals in **Family-Related Medicaid**. This includes:

- **Pregnant or Postpartum Women**
  If you were eligible for Medicaid while pregnant, you can't lose coverage during your pregnancy or for 12 months after the pregnancy ends, no matter your income. If your Medicaid was canceled during this time, you might qualify for help.

- **Children Under 18**
  Children on Medicaid are guaranteed coverage for **one year** after their eligibility is approved, even if your income changes. If your child's Family-Related Medicaid was canceled early, you could be included in the case.

- **Parents and Caretakers**
  Parents and other caretaker relatives who have one or more dependent children in the home may be eligible for Medicaid.

- **19 & 20 Year-Olds**
  Youths aged 19 & 20 who are not claimed as dependents on their parents' taxes and who are not full-time students may be eligible for Medicaid if their income is below the limit for parents and caretakers.

Who cannot be a Class member?

The ruling does **not** apply to individuals who receive Medicaid based on age, disability, or prior receipt of SSI benefits.

What will happen if I am a Class member and currently have Medicaid?

If you are currently enrolled in Family-Related Medicaid, DCF cannot terminate your coverage, even if it believes you are over the income limit, until it sends you a notice that includes additional information.

What will happen if I am a Class member and I do not currently have Medicaid?

DCF must contact class members who are not currently enrolled in Medicaid by March 7, 2026.

DCF must provide the individuals with (1) a revised notice that provides additional information about the reasons DCF found the individual ineligible, and (2) a new opportunity to challenge the loss of Medicaid through a fair hearing, including reinstatement of Medicaid benefits pending the hearing and the opportunity to have past medical bills paid if DCF made a mistake.

What information must be in the new notices from DCF?

The new notices must include enough information to determine whether the State made a mistake. This must include at least:

- the enrollee's household size;
- countable income DCF relied upon for its decision (i.e., the Modified Adjusted Gross Income); and
- the eligibility category in which the enrollee had been receiving benefits, and if it changed, the reason for the change.

Where can I find updates about this case?

Please check Florida Health Justice Project's website, and its Resource Library, for additional information as it becomes available.