

Washington's FCR Interface Process

As more States receive Federal Case: Registry (FCR) data, the question of how to use and handle this data has become more pressing. This article shows how the State of Washington is storing and using FCR data using a screen it created for its Support Enforcement Management Systems (SEMS).

SEMS FCR Record

An FCR record exists on Washington's automated child support enforcement system (SEMS) for each individual who has been sent to the FCR. The FCR record is created when the FCR response (accepted, accepted as unverified, pending, or rejected) is received. If for some reason the FCR does not receive a SEMS request to register the individual, SEMS will not have an FCR record. SEMS will trigger generation of a new request to register the individual the following week.

If the individual is accepted, the data used by the FCR to register the individual (name, Social Security number, date of birth, family violence status) is stored on the SEMS FCR record. The associated Washington case(s) registered are added to the SEMS FCR record, with their case type, order status, and the individual's relationship. Also, any cases in other States associated with the individual are added to the SEMS FCR record, when the individual is a non-custodial (absent) parent (NP) or putative father (PF).

SEMS FCR Screen

Case Registry 12345670	02/08/99 11:04:40 SEMS Name: DOE, JOHN JEFFERSON SEMS-193
Federal	FCR Name: DOE, JOHN JEFFERSON
Birth Date: 06/25/59	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: 460-21-0713 Verified as submitted
FCR Status: Accepted	Last Modified: 11/18/98
Attempt Count: 1	Error Code:
Locate Status: LR	Locate Status Date: 02/08/1999
Query Status:	Query Status Date:
Wash. Data on FCR: FV: 0	Other State's Data on FCR: FV: 0
IV-D REL ORD TYPE	ST CASE ID FIP REL ORD TYPE REQ DATE
654321 NP Y F	ID 067889 16-000 NP Y F 02-03-1999
1234567 NP Y F	PA 178623-A 42-013 PF N F 11-18-1998

The SEMS FCR screen displays the data from the individual's FCR record. Caseworkers use this screen to review the individual's status on the FCR and obtain information that may assist in locating the individual. Caseworkers also use this screen to generate the FCR transactions used to initiate and terminate FPLS locate requests and send FCR queries. Locate and query actions are initiated by entering a code in the Locate Status or Query Status field and transmitting the screen. Caseworkers also generate the CSENet CSI (Case Information) transaction on matched cases from other States from this screen. The CSI

transaction is initiated by highlighting the other State's case information and transmitting the screen.

Adding Individuals/Cases to the FCR

Each week, a program searches the SEMS database for individuals that are not registered on the FCR. If an individual does not have an FCR record, and the individual has the minimum data requirements required by the FCR (name and date of birth or Social Security number), an "Add a Person to the FCR" record is generated. An "Add a Case to the FCR" record is also generated for any of the individual's unregistered associated cases.

If the individual has been rejected previously by the FCR, new or changed data may result in the individual being registered. The critical data elements in this SEMS process are name, Social Security number, date of birth, place of birth, mother's name, and father's name. A program compares the rejected individual's data on SEMS to the data in the individual's temporary reject file (see below). If there is a change in any of the elements (e.g., a new Social Security number for the individual is obtained), an "Add a Person to the FCR" record is generated. An "Add a Case to the FCR" record is also generated for any of the individual's unregistered associated cases.

Rejected Individuals

If the individual is rejected, the name, Social Security number and reason for rejection are added to the SEMS FCR record. This information, which displays on the FCR screen, allows staff to make corrections to data or find new data for the individual to facilitate FCR registration. The other data sent to the FCR for the rejected individual is saved and stored in a temporary reject file. The data in the reject file is used to determine when a new attempt can be made to register the individual. The data in the reject file is deleted when the individual is successfully registered on the FCR.

Accepted Unverified Individuals

It is possible for an individual to be accepted by the FCR, but be "unverified". This occurs when the submitted SSN is not valid for the submitted name, and the Social Security Administration is not able to determine the correct name/SSN combination. Since matching with the FCR and NDNH is not done on unverified individuals, it is necessary to continue attempts to register these individuals on the FCR.

An accepted, unverified individual is generally treated like a rejected individual by SEMS. This data is compared to data in the reject file, and if data has been changed or added to SEMS, an attempt is made to register the individual on the FCR. If the new/changed data is a name, date of birth or Social Security number, a "Change a Person on the FCR" record is generated and is used to send new data to the FCR. When the new data is the place of birth, mother's name, or father's name, the individual must be deleted and added back with the new data. The reason for this is the FCR will not allow these data elements to be changed when a person has a record on the FCR. In this situation, a "Delete a Person From a Case" record is generated to delete the individual, then an "Add a Person to the FCR" record is generated to add the individual. Both records can be sent in the same batch of transactions.

Changes to Individuals/Cases Registered on the FCR

Changes in certain data elements on registered individuals and cases need to be reported to the FCR. For the individual, the data elements are participant type (NP or PF) and family violence. For the case, the data elements are order indicator and case type. Each week, a program compares these elements on the SEMS FCR record to the data on SEMS. If data on the individual has changed, a "Change a Person on the FCR" record is generated. If data on the case has changed, a "Change a Case on the FCR" record is generated. If a case is closed on SEMS and there is no support obligation (the case does not change to non IV-D), a "Delete a Case From the FCR" record is generated.

Matches with the FCR Case Data

Proactive matches with FCR case data are added to the individual's SEMS FCR records for non-custodial parents only. Data added to the record are the other State's FIPS Code, IV-D case number, case type, order status, and the date the other State's case was added to the FCR. Matches received in response to an FCR query generated by the caseworker are automatically added to the individual's SEMS FCR record, regardless of the individual's case relationship.

Worker Alerts

Due to the high volume of worker alerts, Washington is not providing worker alerts for proactive FCR matches. Based on worker requests, the State is rethinking this decision,

State Contact

For additional information, please contact Carl Tiller, SEMS Operations, at 360-664-5397 or e-mail: ctiller@dshs.wa.gov.