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**Subject:** Re: Housing  
**From:** Eric Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>  
**To:** Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>  
**Date Sent:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:16:43 PM GMT-07:00  
**Date Received:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:16:43 PM GMT-07:00

Subject: Child Support + Benefits Path — Keep Housing Moving, Minimize Intrusion

Nuha,

You will not be “monitored” or drug-tested just for opening a Child Support Services (CSS) case. CSS is an administrative pathway to establish/collect support; it does not trigger DCFS investigations or testing. DCFS (Tyler) can add a case note supporting housing stability, but she doesn’t control child support or impose monitoring. We’ll keep government touchpoints minimal and purposeful.

Here’s the clean, low-friction plan:

What I recommend (today)

- Say yes to filing the CSS intake now. It helps rentals because it creates official documentation of pending support. No extra monitoring comes with opening the case.
- Skip standing in lines. I’ll file online and phone-verify as needed; you just provide a few facts (10-minute checklist).
- If you want food benefits (CalFresh), we can submit a quick online application and request phone interview—no office visit unless you choose.

What I will do (0–24h)

- Pre-fill the CSS case intake (establish support + arrears) and send you the 10-minute checklist: kids’ names/DOB, SSN, current address, father identifiers.
- Draft a one-paragraph verification letter for Tyler to add to DCFS notes (housing stability need + CSS filing underway).
- Keep housing search moving: send vetted rentals today; begin applications with your priorities front and center. No Airbnb.

Your options (you choose)

- Option A: “File CSS + CalFresh online now” — fastest paper trail landlords accept; minimal in-person burden.
- Option B: “File CSS now; hold CalFresh unless needed” — keeps support path active while we pursue standard rentals.
- Option C: “No benefits filings today; housing only” — I continue rentals/applications; we can add CSS later if you prefer.

If you go to the local office

- You can, but it’s usually slower and more stressful. If you decide to, text me before you enter; I’ll give you a three-line script and the exact documents to request so you’re in/out quickly.

Bottom line

- Opening a CSS case does not subject you or Mia to testing or monitoring. It's administrative paperwork that helps us secure housing.
- I'll carry filings and calls. You won't need to stand in lines. Just reply with your pick (A/B/C) and "yes" or "no" for CalFresh, and I'll move immediately.

With you—housing first, minimal intrusion, clean documentation.

—Eric