

Re-Engagement and Disqualification Q&A – August 2013

1. Can an individual be taken to re-engagement and potential disqualification if they did not attend a psychological evaluation?

No. According to OAR 461-135-0085(3) the department can require an adult member or parenting teen in the need group to attend medically appropriate treatment for mental health:

- If it is at no cost to the individual, and
- When the individual reported a qualified and appropriate professional has diagnosed the individual with a mental health disorder within the previous 12-months, or
- An evaluation resulted in a mental health diagnosis requiring medically appropriate treatment for the individual to become successful in the workplace.

The department is prohibited from requiring an adult or parenting teen in the need group to attend a psychological evaluation.

Please review OAR 461-135-0085: **Requirement to Attend an Assessment or Evaluation, or Seek Medically Appropriate Treatment for Substance Abuse or Mental Health; Disqualification and Penalties:**

<http://apps.state.or.us/caf/arm/A/461-135-0085.htm>

2. Are DQ's and MQ's interchangeable?

No. A DQ is used when an individual is required to participate in the JOBS program and fails to do so. An MQ is only used when an individual is exempt from JOBS participation and disqualification according to OAR 461-130-0310(2)(a)(A-L); and when the individual is required to attend A&D assessment or treatment, or mental health treatment according to OAR 461-135-0085.

Example: Simone's dependent child is four-months old. Simone is currently exempt from JOBS participation and disqualification. However she is required to attend alcohol and drug treatment. Simone has not been attending. The branch conducts a re-engagement and unable to determine good cause. A reduction notice is sent and an MQ1 is coded in the Needs Resource and Case Descriptor.

3. *In the example above, what happens when Simone is no longer exempt from JOBS participation and disqualification?*

Simone's child is four months old. She just received an MQ1. If she fails to cooperate her MQ could progress. However when her child reaches six months she is no longer exempt due to a child under six months old. At this point the MQ (MQ2) would end.

Simone would need to be invited to a new re-engagement staffing to determine if the disqualification would continue. If she still does not have good cause a DQ would be applied the following month.

4. *In the example in #3 above, it was determined that Simone did not have good cause. She has no disqualifications (DQs) from the past. What DQ would be applied to Simone's case?*

DQs and MQs are not interchangeable. Because Simone did not previously have a DQ, a DQ1 would be applied.

Had Simone received a JOBS disqualification in the past she would go to the next DQ. For example if she was previously a DQ2 she would not be moving to a DQ3.

- 5. *Joanna's TANF grant ended due to disqualification. A DQR was applied to her and she was not eligible for TANF for two-consecutive months. Four months after the DQR expired she re-applies for TANF.***

Does Joanna need to show two-consecutive weeks of cooperation before TANF can be opened?

There was a break in benefits and the disqualification would have ended. No cooperation period is required to re-open TANF once the two-months of DQR have ended.

- 6. *In the example above, what happens if Joanna's TANF is opened but two months later she fails to cooperation?***

Joanna would be taken to re-engagement staffing. If it is determined she did not have good cause, a disqualification could be applied.

It was determined Joanna did not have good cause. A disqualification will be applied the following month. What level of disqualification would be applied?

A DQ4 would be re-applied to Joanna. She would have the DQ4 month to begin cooperation. If she failed to begin the two week cooperation period her TANF would close and she would be ineligible for TANF for two consecutive months.