

Xochitl Esparza, TANF Program Manager  
Authorized Signature

**Number:** SS-PT-12-008  
**Issue Date:** 04/16/2012

**Topic:** Cash Payments

**Subject:** TANF Program: Employment separation of a Primary Wage Earner and Deprivation

**Transmitting (check the box that best applies):**

- New Policy   
  Policy Change   
  Policy Clarification   
  Executive Letter  
 Administrative Rule   
  Manual Update   
  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- All DHS employees                     
  County Mental Health Directors  
 Area Agencies on Aging                     
  Health Services  
 Children, Adults and Families                     
  Seniors and People with Disabilities  
 County DD Program Managers                     
  Other (please specify): Self Sufficiency

Policy/Rule Title:	TANF changes to Deprivation based on underemployment or unemployment of the Primary Wage Earner		
Policy/Rule Number(s):	OAR 461-125-0170	Release No:	
	FSM-TANF-E-7		
Effective Date:	May 1, 2012	Expiration:	None
References:	Senate Bill 1579 (2012)		
Web Address:	<a href="http://www.leg.state.or.us/orsnc/faces/orc/orsnc.cfm?_afz=461-125-0170">OAR 461-125-0170</a>		

**Discussion/Interpretation:**

OAR [461-125-0170](http://www.leg.state.or.us/orsnc/faces/orc/orsnc.cfm?_afz=461-125-0170), which describes the eligibility requirements for a two-parent family when deprivation is based on under or unemployment is being amended effective May 1, 2012 for the TANF program only. The amendments remove the employment separation penalty for Primary Wage Earners (PWE) in TANF two-parent households. The change is being made because, OAR [461-135-0070](http://www.leg.state.or.us/orsnc/faces/orc/orsnc.cfm?_afz=461-135-0070) covers the requirement that a

family becomes ineligible for TANF when a caretaker relative in the need group leaves a job (defined in part as the last job held within 120 days from the TANF date of request for benefits) without good cause. The PWE in a two-parent household is included under OAR [461-135-0070](#).

This change only impacts TANF program applicants. TANF related Medical (MAA and MAF) program requirements associated with the employment separation penalty for Primary Wage Earners in two-parent families will remain the same as current rule and policy.

### **Implementation/Transition Instructions:**

The rule and policy changes begin on May 1, 2012. The change will **only** impact TANF applications with a date of request on or after May 1, 2012 and redeterminations effective May 1, 2012. Applicants who have a date of request in March or April will not be impacted by the rule and policy changes.

### **Training/Communication Plan:**

The rule and policy changes will be incorporated into the current training. Discussions of the policy changes will be included in the upcoming Line Manager meeting.

### **Local/Branch Action Required:**

Review the transmittal, with staff who determine eligibility for TANF program benefits.

Begin implementing the rule and policy changes on May 1, 2012 for TANF program applications with a date of request on or after May 1, 2012.

### **Central Office Action Required:**

- Amend Oregon Administrative Rules [461-135-0070](#) and [461-125-0170](#).
- Revise Family Services Manual.
- Amend training materials.

**Field/Stakeholder review:**       Yes       No

**If yes, reviewed by:**

### **Filing Instructions:**

*If you have any questions about this policy, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Patrick J Ring		
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