

Policy Transmittal Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs



William Baney – Deputy Administrator
SSP Program Design

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Number: SS-PT-20-016
Issue date: 07/01/2020

Topic: Cash Payments: Child Support Requirements

Due date:

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):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: {Select type} | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Intensive In Home Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Policy/rule title:	Individual Required to Help Division of Child Support Obtain Support from Non-custodial Parent; TANF		
Policy/rule number(s):	OAR 461-120-0340	Release number:	
Effective date:	July 6, 2020	Expiration date:	
References:			
Web address:			

Discussion/interpretation:

TANF child support cooperation requirements are being revised effective July 6, 2020.

Currently, TANF applicants are required to cooperate with DHS and the Division of Child Support (DCS) to establish paternity and pursue child support unless they have

good cause. DHS currently reviews child support cooperation requirements with applicants using the DHS [0428A](#).

Beginning July 6, 2020, TANF applicants are only required to agree to cooperate with DCS unless they have good cause. If the applicant does not agree to cooperate and does not have good cause, TANF benefits will be denied.

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) [461-120-0340](#) has been revised to reflect this change.

Beginning July 6, 2020:

- DHS will ask TANF applicants the following two questions regarding child support cooperation at intake:
 - Do you agree to cooperate with DCS?
 - Do you have good cause for non-cooperation with DCS?
- Cash benefits are denied when a TANF applicant does not agree to cooperate with DCS and does not have good cause for non-cooperation.
- DHS will ask TANF applicants and participants if there is any information they would like to voluntarily provide about the non-custodial parent. This information is not required.
- DHS may ask, but not require, a TANF participant to complete a paternity affidavit.
- TANF participants are still required to cooperate with DCS in establishing paternity and obtaining child support. Non-cooperation without good cause results in reduction and eventual termination of cash benefits for participants.
- Until the DHS [0428A](#) is updated, DHS will verbally review the following with TANF applicants:
 - The requirement, at intake, to agree to cooperate unless there is good cause.
 - The requirement, while receiving benefits, to cooperate with DCS unless there is good cause.
 - Good cause for non-cooperation. (The DHS [8660](#) may be used when reviewing good cause and the other options for safely pursuing child support.)

DHS will clearly narrate that cooperation requirements and good cause have been reviewed.

Updates to the appropriate FSM sections and forms are planned to be made at a future date.

Why these changes are being made

Beginning July 6, 2020, integrated ONE will be used to determine eligibility for multiple programs. It is critical that requirements shared across these programs are aligned.

TANF and Medicaid programs both have child support cooperation requirements.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will not allow Medicaid applicants to be asked detailed questions about non-custodial parents.

This means TANF child support requirements must be changed beginning July 6, 2020 to align with Medicaid.

Implementation/transition instructions:

Training/communication plan:

Local leadership to review policy changes with local office staff.

Local/branch action required:

Local leadership to review policy changes with local office staff.

Central office action required:

- Update rule.
- Update appropriate FSM sections.
- Update the DHS 415F, DHS 428A and DHS 7525.

Field/stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

Filing instructions:

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s): TANF Policy	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: TANF.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us	