

Clarification: *Oregon residents¹ who are fleeing domestic violence and who want to relocate out of State.

*** Domestic violence survivors who are fleeing domestic violence from other States applying for TA-DVS and/or TANF in Oregon.**

References: ORS 411.117; OAR 461-120-0010; OAR 461-135-1200; Family Service Manual TANF Section K; TA-DVS –Section A

Oregon is one of only six States that provide specifically identified financial assistance to victims of domestic violence. The other States are Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, and Utah. These States have either emergency assistance that includes services to survivors of domestic violence or they have special programs to address the needs of survivors. The program name, eligibility and benefits vary from State to State.

Current Oregon residents that want to flee to another State:

An Oregon resident who is a survivor of domestic violence and wants to flee as part of their plan to address safety can be relocated to another State². They must meet all eligibility requirements except the “intent to reside in Oregon” requirement. Providing clients with resource information and helping them make an informed decision, is important when they are considering moving to another State.

A plan which includes steps to address safety and stability in the new State should be in place as part of helping the survivor flee to the new State.

- The survivor should be given the name of the local DV service provider in the area they will be relocating to. This information can usually be accessed from the local domestic violence service provider or by searching on-line for the area where the client intends to move.

¹ People continue to be residents of Oregon during temporary periods of absence if they intend to return when the purpose of the absence is completed. (for example: in a shelter out of State because Oregon shelters had no space available)

² If this is what the client is requesting...and we know of no legal reason why the client can't leave the State (e.g. Custody papers or other legal documents that prohibit the client from leaving the State; pending criminal actions; court appointments that the client is required to appear at).

- If the survivor is moving to another State and planning on staying with family or friends, it is a good idea to call and verify that this resource is available to the client and for how long.
- If the survivor was on Food Stamps with the abuser in Oregon, it is also a good idea to cash out Food Stamps when the client is moving out of State. This will reduce the likelihood of the abuser tracking the client through EBT transactions.

Survivors Fleeing to Oregon from another State:

When a person fleeing domestic violence comes to Oregon from another State it is important to establish what safety concerns might exist for the domestic violence survivor. TA-DVS policy follows TANF policy related to residency except that for TA-DVS once the survivor is a resident of Oregon there doesn't need to be an intent to reside in Oregon.

If someone comes to Oregon fleeing domestic violence and ***intends to reside in Oregon*** there are some basic questions that might help clarify what their safety concerns are.

- Does the abuser know the client is fleeing to Oregon? If the client (or abuser) has family or friends in Oregon, is the abuser aware of that?
 - If not, when was the most recent incident of abuse? If it's recent (within the last 30 to 90 days) and the client is in shelter or a temporary living situation in Oregon, we could consider the client to have a continued safety concern as they are in the process of fleeing domestic violence.
 - If the abuse was several months or even years ago, we would want to find out from the client what their current concerns are around safety. (Maybe the abuser is getting out of jail, maybe the victim has run into a friend or family member of the abuser and is concerned that they will tell the abuser.)
 - Has the abuser tracked the client from State to State? If yes, then it's likely that the abuser could find the victim here in Oregon.
- Has the abuser made contact with the client in Oregon? How long ago was that? What happened? Did the abuser make threats against the victim or the children?

- If the abuser has contacted the client (even if only by phone) there may still be a risk to the victim's safety.

If someone comes to Oregon fleeing domestic violence and *wants to move to another State or back to their State of origin*, there are additional things we need to look at, since there is not intent to reside in Oregon.

- *Are they a resident of Oregon?* If the survivor from another State has a residence in the State of origin, is receiving benefits in the State of origin or is planning on returning to the State they fled from, (e.g. folks that are temporarily in Oregon staying with family or friends; in a DV shelter that serves both the State of origin and Oregon; or on vacation in Oregon) they would not be considered residents of Oregon and would not meet the requirements for TA-DVS or TANF.
- *We'd also want to consider where the abuser is.* If the survivor fled to Oregon, established residency and meets all the other requirements for TA-DVS, we would not provide assistance to move the family back to the same area from which they fled the abuse. We would only move them back to their State of origin if the abuser was no longer there or they were moving to an area of the State away from the abuser. We'd want them to have support where they were moving to and a safety plan in place.
- *If the victim is fleeing from State to State.* If the abuser has tracked them from State to State then we could assist the victim by helping them flee to another State.

Resources:

- Most local domestic violence service providers have a list of providers from other States. Check with them for more complete information than what is available on-line.
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <http://www.ncadv.org/> - List of domestic violence coalitions within the US.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: <http://www.ncadv.org/> - 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) – Links to state DV coalitions.