Clear

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) / Medicaid / Food Stamp Program

CHILD SUPPORT COOPERATION NOTICE

Case Name:	**Case #:**

Federal and state laws require absent parents to support their children and for parents or caretaker relatives to cooperate in establishing paternity and obtaining child support for their children. In Florida, assistance with child support issues is provided by the Department of Revenue's Child Support Enforcement office.

Custodial Parents: Cooperating with child support enforcement means that you give the child support office as much help as you can. This can include: giving identifying information on the absent parent, including name, SSN and address; helping determine legally who is the father of a child born out-of-wedlock; attending interviews with child support staff; signing legal papers; appearing in court; and, possibly testifying in court. Your Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement worker will tell you what to do to cooperate.

Cooperation with child support can result in benefits for you and your child, including:

- Legally establishing paternity, when needed;
- Finding the non-custodial parent;
- Having child support payments made to the State on your behalf (required for TCA recipients);
- Possibly getting enough support to no longer need public assistance; and,
- Establishing your child's rights to inherit and get benefits such as veteran's benefits, Social Security, etc.

You may also want to claim good cause for not cooperating with the child support enforcement office. Good cause may exist when cooperation would be against the best interest of you or your child. If you wish to claim good cause, you will be required to provide certain evidence to support your good cause claim. If it is decided you have good cause, you will not be required to cooperate for the child covered by the good cause determination. If you think you have good cause not to cooperate, or want more information, tell your worker, who will give you more information.

If you do not cooperate and do not have good cause not to cooperate, your TCA will be cancelled and you will not be able to receive Food Stamps for yourself. Your children will remain eligible for both Medicaid and Food Stamps; however, your needs will be removed from any Medicaid benefit you would have otherwise been eligible to receive.

I have read this notice about child support cooperation and good cause.

Signature _____ Date _____

Economic Self-Sufficiency Specialist's Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Case Number _____ District _____ County _____ Unit _____ Case Name _____