



Claim Notice – Good Cause for Refusal to Cooperate with Child Support

If you believe cooperating with the child support enforcement program would not be in the best interest for you or the child(ren) in your care, you have the right to receive a good cause determination for not cooperating. The good cause determination can be based upon one or more of the following situations:

1. Cooperation is expected to result in emotional or physical harm to the child(ren);
2. Cooperation is expected to result in physical or emotional harm to you;
3. The child for whom you are applying for assistance was born because of sexual battery or incest;
4. Legal proceedings for adoption of the child(ren) are pending before a court;
5. You are being assisted by a public or licensed private social service agency to determine whether to place the child(ren) for adoption; or,
6. Cooperating would make it difficult for you to escape domestic violence, or cooperating would penalize you.

It is your responsibility to provide information to prove your claim of good cause. If you have a problem providing information, tell the Child Support Enforcement staff, who will assist you. These are examples of information you may provide:

1. Birth certificates, or medical or law enforcement records which show the child(ren) was conceived because of sexual battery or incest.
2. Court documents or other records that show adoption proceedings are in progress.
3. Court, criminal, law enforcement, medical, social services, psychological or protective services records which show that the absent parent (father or mother) of the child(ren) might harm you or the child(ren) either physically or emotionally.
4. Medical records concerning your or the child's emotional health history and current status, or a written statement from a licensed mental health professional about your mental health.
5. A written statement from a social worker or other official in a social service agency stating that you are being assisted in determining whether to place the child(ren) for adoption.
6. Statements from other persons, including friends, neighbors, clergymen, social workers and medical professionals who have knowledge of your or the child's circumstances regarding good cause.

Although you may be instructed to provide additional information to verify your claim, the absent parent will not be contacted unless the Child Support Enforcement caseworker tells you first.

If you are an applicant for food assistance or Medicaid and claim "Good Cause", until the Department of Revenue's Child Support Enforcement Agency makes the "Good Cause" determination, your needs cannot be included in your family's benefits. Your benefits will not be delayed, denied or discontinued for food assistance if you have complied with the request to provide additional information to support your "Good Cause" claim. For Medicaid, the child support requirements do not apply to pregnant women and child only cases.

If you are an applicant for Temporary Cash Assistance, and claim "Good Cause", and the Child Support Enforcement agency determines that "Good Cause" does not exist, your entire Temporary Cash Assistance is denied.

If your Good Cause claim is denied and you disagree with the decision, you may request a hearing with the Department of Children and Families. The Child Support Enforcement Agency will participate in the hearing. If you are found to have Good Cause for failure to cooperate, the Department of Revenue's Child Support Enforcement Agency will not attempt to establish the child's paternity (if born out of wedlock) or collect child support.