

## **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Common Sense Business Regulation**

It is the policy of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) that the agency will adhere to Executive Order 2008-04S. Executive Order 2008-04S “Implementing Common Sense Business Regulation,” paragraph 5(f) provides as follows:

“Agencies should when appropriate waive penalties for first-time or isolated paperwork procedural regulatory non-compliance. Each cabinet agency, board and commission shall prepare and publish on its website, a policy describing the circumstances in which such waivers shall be granted.”

It is the policy of ODJFS to waive penalties for all first time or isolated paperwork or procedural regulatory noncompliance whenever appropriate. ODJFS believes the waiver of these penalties is appropriate under the following circumstances: 1) when failure to comply does not result in the misuse of state or federal funds; 2) when the regulation being violated, or the penalty being implemented, is not a regulation or penalty required by federal law; and 3) when the violation does not pose any actual or potential harm to public health or safety.

It is important to note that this policy *only* applies to minor violations, such as a paperwork processing violation. However, there may be certain circumstances which would otherwise be considered minor (e.g., a vendor’s inability to document expenditures) when it is not appropriate for ODJFS to be limited to simply sending a warning letter for the first offense, such as when a vendor owes money to ODJFS. Questions about this policy should be directed to ODJFS’s Chief Legal Counsel. The contact number is 614-466-4605 .

### **ODJFS Regulatory Ombudsman**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) strives to *help Ohioans improve the quality of their lives* and be the nation’s leading family support and workforce development system through accountability, compassion, integrity, respect and teamwork. To accomplish this goal, it is important that we consistently regulate laws and rules surrounding public assistance programs.

On February 12, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed [\*\*Executive Order 2008-04S Implementing Common Sense Business Regulations.\*\*](#)

The Governor's Executive Order required the creation of a regulatory ombudsman position in the Agency. Tony Coder is ODJFS’ Regulatory Ombudsman. As ombudsman, Mr. Coder acts as a problem-solving liaison between the Agency and those affected by its rules and processes.

For questions or concerns, please **contact Mr. Coder by e-mail** or phone at (614) 466-2100. In his absence, staff from the Office of Legislation would also be able to assist and they can be contacted at 614-466-9280 or via email at [legislation@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:legislation@jfs.ohio.gov). For more information about Ohio's laws, please visit <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc> for Ohio's statutes and <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac> for Ohio's rules.