



KNOX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

OPPORTUNITY KNOX EMPLOYMENT CENTER

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Knox County has in place, case management practices for all households that have used over 24 of their 36-month time limit, including home visits, interviews and referrals. This contact remains in place during the last 12 months of available assistance. Every attempt is made to help the client overcome employment/self-sufficiency barriers prior to the exhaustion of the 36-month limit.

Exemptions may be considered only for assistance groups who have fully complied, have not failed without good cause to participate as assigned and have not been sanctioned within the 12-months prior to the request for exemption.

Knox County Criteria of Hardship Exemption:

1. Knox County may grant time limited exemptions on a case-by-case basis need based upon certification by a recognized medical practitioner that the adult in the household is physically or mentally unable to work, thus placing the child(ren) in the household in a state of general privation, suffering or adversity. The adult in the household must work with our case manager to apply for SSI and work with his/her physician to overcome the diagnosed problem.
2. Knox County may grant time limited exemptions on a case-by-case need based upon the certification of recognized medical practitioner that the adult is required to stay in the home to care for a child or family member who is diagnosed with medical or psychological challenges which limit his/her school attendance and requires supervision of the adult in the household. All efforts to provide for other supervision of the impaired household member must have been exhaustion.
3. Knox County may also consider time limited exemptions on a case-by-case need if a "Time Limit Committee*" reviews and approves that extenuating circumstances, beyond the control of the applicant/recipient, exist.

*Time Limit Committee consists of the Director, Assistant Director, Workforce Development Supervisor and Workforce Development Case Manager.

Those granted an exemption would be reviewed every 60 days and just prior to the end of the exemption period. The length of the exemption will be directly related to the cause.

Example: The exemption was based on a medical condition determined by a physician to last 60 days. During the 60-day exemption, the client will be working with his/her case manager preparing to come off assistance at the end of that period.

When Knox County has reached the 20% limit, the Time Limit Committee will review all those granted exemptions in order to determine which cases should remain on exempt status and which do not.

Priority will be given to those households:

1). with the largest number of children and lowest ages of children, (younger children being of higher priority as they may not yet be in school).

2). who have absolutely no other resources available to them – resources being other community agencies and family members.

3). working in a “**dedicated manner**” (deemed by our social services worker and the client’s physician) to be working to overcome their existing barriers to monetary self-sufficiency.