

Athens County Hardship Exemption Policies

Exemption Criteria

1. All adult caretakers who are disabled or required to be in the home to care for a disabled child or spouse.
2. A single parent household in which the mother is in her last trimester of pregnancy or the youngest child is less than four months old.
3. Teenage parents and their children, not otherwise exempt by state rules, shall be exempt until the youngest parent reaches their eighteenth birthday or graduates from high school.
4. A household in which all required adults are actively participating in an approved training program may be exempt for three months immediately following the expiration of their initial time limit.
5. The individual/AG is active with the Children Service Board, has a case plan, and is working cooperatively toward case plan goals.
6. The individual has extraordinary circumstances whereby the imposition of the time limits would prevent them from completing the activities needed to reach a level of economic support.

All other OWF eligibility factors must be met. The exemption criteria apply only to the time limit rule.

Procedure

All cases scheduled for termination due the time limit will be reviewed by their assigned Social Program Coordinator sixty to thirty days prior to termination. They will prepare a brief summary of the situation including any information that would address the hardship criteria and a recommendation for approval or denial. This information will be submitted to the review committee prior to the first of the month preceding the scheduled termination. If the Children Service Board is

involved, they will provide a representative to present information and a recommendation to the committee.

A committee of three staff members, appointed by the Director, and including a family service supervisor, a social program coordinator and an income maintenance eligibility worker, shall review each case scheduled for termination due to the time limits, in the first week of the month prior to the scheduled termination date or within thirty days of re-application. The committee, by majority vote, shall decide whether or not the case qualifies for a hardship exemption. The committee will be convened and chaired by the supervisor and a record kept of the vote on each case. Notification of the results will be submitted to the Director and other appropriate staff within two work days.

Upon receiving the results of the committee decision the social program coordinator will initiate the proper notification of approval of exemption or notification of adverse action. The social program coordinator will review each case for possible referral to other programs for assistance. Each case will also be reviewed by the appropriate eligibility worker for continued Food stamp, Medicaid, and childcare eligibility.