

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES OF CLARK COUNTY

CONSIDERATION OF HARDSHIP CONDITIONS (revised February 2010)

Ohio Works First (OWF) assistance groups who have reached the 36-month time limits for participation in the OWF program may be exempted from the time limit if a hardship exists. The family must meet one or more of the hardship criteria described below.

Anyone granted an extension is subject to the work activity participation requirements. If any individual should fail to participate as required, the extension is discontinued.

The Hardship conditions that Clark County has identified are:

- 1) The individual is a single custodial parent with a child less than three months of age or is in her 3rd trimester of pregnancy. **Reason code: 0101**
- 2) The single parent or caretaker is providing care for a disabled immediate family member (limited to child, sibling, spouse, parent) living in the same household, and other acceptable arrangements for the disabled member's care are not available. The medical necessity of the individual's need to provide care must be verified by a physician. This extension will be reviewed at a minimum, every six months. **Reason code: 0303**
- 3) The individual has not been able to participate in assigned work activities due to a physical/mental incapacity that has occurred within the last six months and must be verified by a qualified physician or mental health provider. **Reason code: 0304**
- 4) The individual has documented ongoing medical/mental health issues, has applied for SSI six (6) months prior to the hardship request, and is actively awaiting SSI determination. Disability will be reviewed at each reapplication. **Reason code 0309**
- 5) The individual is a victim of domestic violence. The individual must provide verification by law enforcement or court order that they are a recent victim (within the last 3 months) and verification of active participation in a recovery plan that is closely monitored by the appropriate social service agency. **Reason code: 0405**
- 6) The individual has experienced a verified loss of income from employment due to layoff, on-the-job injury, or company closing. The individual did not cause his or her own job loss. **Reason code: 0406**

- 7) The individual is enrolled in an education or training program directly related to employment which will not be completed by the expiration of the thirty-six month time limit. The individual must be enrolled full-time, by the course standards, for nine months prior to the hardship request. This exemption criterion is allowable for no more than six additional months, or until the education/training program is completed-whichever comes first.
Reason code: 0608
- 8) The individual has significant barriers to employment such as lack of available 2nd or 3rd shift child care, *special/exceptional* needs child care or transportation services. This exemption will be reviewed, at a minimum, every six months. **Reason code: 0507**
- 9) The individual has unique personal/family circumstances, to be determined by the Department of Job & Family Services. The maximum extension is not to exceed six months. **Reason code: 0508**
- 10) OWF hardship case—inter-county transfer. **Reason code: 9099**

****NOTE:

In order for a two (2) parent assistance group to qualify for “Hardship”, both parents must meet at least one (1) Hardship criteria in this plan.

APPENDIX

Definitions:

Special needs child includes:

- 1) Children who suffer from a pronounced physical condition for which a physician has indicated that the child requires a high degree of physical care or supervision, or
- 2) Children who have pronounced behavior problems for which a licensed/certified professional, including a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed social worker has indicated that the child required a high degree of supervision and care.

Exceptional needs child includes:

- 1) Children who require, as indicated by a physician, constant twenty-four hour a day supervision provided by nurses or persons closely supervised by nurses or physicians, or
- 2) Children who have severe behavior problems characterized by violence towards themselves, other persons or their physical surroundings and for whom a psychiatrist has indicated that the child needs a high level of individual supervision, or
- 3) Children who have been diagnosed by a licensed/certified professional as having severe mental disabilities, such as child schizophrenia, severe mental retardation or autism.

