

Hardship Criteria
Lucas County Job and Family Services
February 2001

Section 1: LCJFS Internal Service Provision Criteria

If upon review of case, the exemption review panel finds that the LCJFS unintentionally did not honor the language of the Self Sufficiency Contract (e.g., failure to follow policy procedures correctly) the AG will be awarded an exemption necessary for the LCJFS to fulfill their obligation to the customer.

Section 2: Customer Eligibility Criteria

1. Child Protective Issues

(A) The case must be open with LCCS at the time of the exemption request. An exemption will be granted for the period of time that the case plan requirements prohibit employment. Both LCCS staff and CDJFS staff will have input into length of the exemption period with the CDJFS staff being the final determiner. The maximum length of time for the exemption is 11 months.

(B) A situation occurs within three months of the Assistance Group reaching OWF time limits whereby the recipient caretaker is unable to:

1. care for their children and maintain custody; and/or
2. retain stable living arrangements including housing

provided that a licensed social worker confirms the existence of either or both of the foregoing conditions in accordance with common social work practices.

2. Disabled Adults and Children

If the applicant is requesting an exemption due to being the primary caretaker for a disabled adult, the following criteria must be met:

- < The disabled adult must be living in the home for the six months previous to the application for hardship and be a member of the family. An exception will be made to the six months prior living arrangement if the disabled adult is sixty (60) years of age or older and the new living arrangement was precipitated by a crisis situation.
- < Provide a statement from a licensed physician or psychologist that indicates the need for 24 hour care.
- < All other supportive resources must be explored, including application for waiver

and access of community resources.

- < During the exemption period respite and caretaker resources will be identified and applied for. The exemption may be up to 11 months or earlier, if the case plan goal of meeting care has been met.

If the applicant is requesting an exemption due to being the primary caretaker for a disabled child, the following criteria must be met:

- < Provide a statement from a licensed physician or psychologist that indicates the need for 24 hour care.
- < In the case of a school age child verification from the school and the physician that the child is unable to attend school.
- < During the exemption period all resources will be explored and applied for to meet the child's care and education needs while enabling the adult caretaker to seek and maintain employment. The exemption may be up to 11 months or earlier, if the case plan goal of meeting the child's needs have been met.

If the application is requesting an exemption due to being disabled or temporarily incapacitated, the following criteria must be met:

- < Provide a statement from a licensed physician or psychologist that indicates the recipient is unemployable.
- < All other supportive resources must be explored including access of community resources.
- < An exemption may be up to 11 months or earlier, if the incapacity has ceased or the case plan of becoming employable is met.

3. Pregnancy issues

Exemptions will be granted to pregnant recipients who provide a statement by their physician that their pregnancy is high risk and meets one of the following medical criteria:

- < Employed at time of hardship application but determined to be unable to continue employment throughout the pregnancy due to limits imposed by physician.
- < Unemployed at time of hardship application but statement from physician indicates unemployable until 6 weeks after the birth.

Exemptions will be granted to pregnant recipients who are in their third trimester of pregnancy when they reach their 36th month of cash assistance will be granted an OWF extension through 6 weeks following the birth of the child.

4. Domestic Violence

A victim of domestic violence will be eligible for the hardship exemption when documentation is provided to the LCJFS that the court appearance has been kept by the individual and/or a case management plan will be developed which will have as the goal to remove the family from danger and to maintain the members in a safe living environment. The case plan will be developed in conjunction with agencies that are involved with the treatment and recovery of the family. The maximum length of time will be 11 months.

5. Substance Abuse

An exemption will be initially granted to recipients who have been screened and diagnosed as chemically dependent and who are engaged in a certified treatment program. As a condition for remaining eligible the participant must show evidence of making progress in the program. The exemption may be granted for a period of up to 11 months, or earlier if it is determined that the participant is ready for employment. This determination will be made by the LCJFS in consultation with the treatment provider. The LCJFS has the final say as to when the exemption will end.

6. Education

An exemption will be granted to recipients for completion of an education program if the following conditions are met during the third-six (36) months of OWF eligibility:

- they have a high school diploma or a GED and are enrolled on a full time basis in a post secondary education program (associates degree, bachelor's degree or vocational education).
- they are making satisfactory progress (as determined by the school)
- one of the following circumstances apply;
 - < they are currently enrolled and will reach the OWF time limit during the current school term. The applicant will be granted an exemption until the end of the school term, and additionally
 - < if they will graduate or complete the program within one year of the 36th month of OWF eligibility, their OWF benefits will be extended for up to 11 months.

7. Teen Parents

An exemption will be granted to teen parents who are minor heads of household and

are enrolled for a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week in a high school diploma or GED program and are meeting attendance requirements. If the teen has their eighteenth birthday during the exemption period, benefits will continue for the full period of the exemption.