

Good Cause - OWF time limits (TLIN) Aug. 02

Remember: We have determined good cause for our county. We also have a committee to assist when needed to determine good cause for an AG. The reason codes are different and are loaded on TLGC.

Good Cause is county defined. There is no limit to the number of AG's that may qualify for good cause. Good Cause rules are defined in CAMTL 2. AG's can only qualify for good cause after they have been off TANF cash benefits for 24 months.

Key points to remember:

- A TANF AG may qualify for county/state hardship following the receipt of their 36th month. This must be explored first prior to closing their cash benefits for receiving 36 months of OWF.
- There is a 24 month "waiting period" for good cause issues after a TANF AG has reached their 36 month time limit. The 24 month period starts the month after the AG's 36th month and ends 24 months thereafter.
- The 24 month "waiting period" does not require the AG to have a 24 month break in receipt of OWF because a county/state hardship extension can be provided to the AG during the "waiting period" for the 36th month time limit.
- A TANF AG can only qualify for Good Cause extension for a 24 month time period (if all other OWF eligibility has been met).
- Months of OWF received due to hardship extension count toward the 24 month time period under Good Cause.
- Once eligibility under good cause is established, no subsequent determination of Good Cause shall be made as long as all other OWF eligibility requirements continue to be met.
- If an AG is sanctioned during the Good Cause period for not following their SSC, and then cures that sanction - no new application or determination of Good Cause is necessary to re-establish OWF eligibility.
- If an AG loses OWF eligibility while receiving a Good Cause extension for any reason other than a SSC failure **and** there is at least a one day interruption in assistance, a new determination of eligibility for OWF and Good Cause must be made. *Ex.: Reapplication due 11/12/02 client fails to keep appointment. Case is closed 11/30/02. Client reschedules appointment on 12/3/02. Good Cause and OWF must be reestablished.*
- A TANF AG cannot receive OWF assistance for more than 60 months unless they are eligible for a federal hardship
- Good Cause and State hardship extensions count toward the federal 60 month time limit.

Examples of the above information:

1. An OWF AG receives 36 months of OWF benefits as of June 30, 2002. We determine the AG is eligible for an extension of OWF due to county/state hardship for the next 6 months, beginning July 1, 2002 and ending Dec. 30, 2002. The AG has 42 countable months (TLIN) toward the federal 60 month limit. *Good Cause* - On July 1, 2004 the AG reapplies for OWF benefits. The AG lost OWF eligibility due to the 36th month time limit rule on June 30, 2002. So, the AG can be determined to have Good Cause for reapplying and be eligible for a Good Cause extension as of July 1, 2004. Receipt of OWF for the 6 months of hardship reduces the available months under Good Cause from 24 to 18 months, but does not delay the date on which the AG can be determined eligible under Good Cause or interrupt the AG's 24 month "waiting period".
2. An OWF AG receives 36 months of OWF benefits as of June 30, 2002 and OWF assistance is terminated. On January 2, 2003, the AG is determined to be eligible for a hardship extension for the next 20 months (following our hardship regulations). The hardship extension ends June 30, 2004 and OWF is terminated. The AG received 56 months toward the federal 60 month time limit. *Good Cause* - One July 1, 2004, the AG can be determined to be eligible for an extension of OWF benefits due to Good Cause, because it has been 24 months since the AG lost OWF eligibility due to the 36 month time limit. The AG would have 4 months of potential eligibility under the Good Cause extension.
3. Same example is #2. After the 4 months under the Good Cause extension have been received due to the 60 month federal time limit, you may determine that the AG is eligible for a federal hardship extension (following our hardship regulations).

****If a Good Cause case transfers in to our county, the transferring county will use code 9099 on TLGC. You will need to read CLRC to determine if the Good Cause exemption fits our county specific codes. If the reason matches one of our codes, change TLGC to our specific code. If there is no match, change TLGC to 1811.

Summary:

1. OWF received for 36 months
2. AG applies for county/state hardship (eligible/ineligible?)
3. Eligible - follow hardship rules
4. Ineligible - 24 month "waiting period"
5. During 24 month "waiting period" - can reapply for hardship
6. 24 months after 36th month - reapply for OWF cash and Good Cause extension
7. After receipt of OWF for 60 month - apply for federal hardship extension

GOOD CAUSE EXTENSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

AG Name

AG #

Date of extension

- ' 0904 - medical/mental disability with proper documentation
- ' 0905 - primary caretaker of HH member with medical/mental disability with proper documentation
- ' 0401 - domestic violence victim with proper documentation
- ' 1001 - educational/training with proper documentation
- ' 0701 - Child Protective Service case/plan
- ' 1311 - Pregnancy - single parent
- ' 0501 - Unique Personal Circumstances
- ' 1601 - Teen Parent(s)
- ' 1811 - Good Cause transfer in case no reason code specific to Champaign County
- ' 9099 - Good Cause transfer in case. Recoded to Champaign Co. specific code or 1811

Examples of Unique Personal Circumstances:

3. Homelessness - a disaster caused the family to lose their home/employment etc.
4. Employment Needs - beyond family's control, such as layoff, company closure etc. and wage earner is not eligible for Unemployment Insurance.
5. Aged - caretaker of child(ren) is over 60 and in need of OWF to maintain home for child
6. Day Care - single parent with preschool age children with no day care available
7. SSI decision - individual actively seeking SSI benefits and awaiting determination.

**Each situation needs to have documentation to determine good cause reason.

Good Cause Committee:

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