



**NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT TO COOPERATE AND RIGHT TO CLAIM GOOD CAUSE FOR
REFUSAL TO COOPERATE IN CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT**

BENEFITS OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Your cooperation in the child support enforcement process may be of value to you and your child because it might result in the following benefits:

1. Finding the absent parent;
2. Legally establishing the child's paternity;
3. The possibility that support payments may be higher than your welfare grant if you receive Temporary Assistance cash;
4. The possibility that you and your children may obtain rights to future social security, veterans, or other governmental benefits;
5. The possibility that medical support may be obtained for your child.

WHAT IS MEANT BY COOPERATION?

The law requires you to cooperate with the State of Missouri to get any child support payments owed to you and any of the children for whom you want Temporary Assistance cash and requires you to cooperate in obtaining medical support for children for whom you want healthcare coverage, unless you have good cause for not cooperating.

In cooperating with the State, you may be asked to do one or more of the following things:

1. Name the parent of any child applying for or receiving Temporary Assistance cash and/or healthcare coverage, and give information to help find the parent;
2. Help determine legally who the father is if your child was born out of wedlock;
3. Give help to obtain child support payments owed to you or the children receiving Temporary Assistance cash;
4. Pay to the State any money which is given directly to you by the absent parent if you receive Temporary Assistance cash; and
5. Come to the Division of Family Services Office, Child Support Enforcement Office, or court, etc. to sign papers or give necessary information or documentary evidence.

WHAT IS MEANT BY GOOD CAUSE?

You may have good cause not to cooperate in the State's efforts to collect child support and/or medical support. You may be excused from cooperating if you believe that cooperation would not be in the best interest of your child, and if you could provide evidence to support this claim.

IF YOU DO NOT COOPERATE AND YOU DO NOT HAVE GOOD CAUSE

1. Your Temporary Assistance benefit will be reduced by 25%.
2. You may be ineligible for healthcare coverage.
3. Your children will still be eligible for Temporary Assistance and/or healthcare coverage for their own needs.

HOW AND WHEN YOU MAY CLAIM GOOD CAUSE

1. If you want to claim good cause, you must tell a caseworker that you think you have good cause. You can do this at any time you believe you have good cause not to cooperate.
2. If you claim "good cause" you must be given another notice. This second notice will explain the circumstances under which the Division of Family Services may find good cause, and the type of evidence or other information the Division of Family Services needs to decide your claim. You may also ask for this second notice to help you decide whether to claim good cause.

If you have any questions concerning the above information, please ask your caseworker.

I HAVE READ, OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME, AND UNDERSTAND THIS NOTICE CONCERNING MY RIGHT TO CLAIM GOOD CAUSE FOR REFUSING TO COOPERATE.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT



DATE

I HAVE PROVIDED THE APPLICANT/PARTICIPANT WITH A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

SIGNATURE OF CASEWORKER/CASE MANAGER



DATE

APPLICANT/PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

THIS APPLIES TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PARTICIPANTS

When you sign the Temporary Assistance application, you are transferring to the State of Missouri all of your rights to child support and maintenance or alimony including arrearages or past due support. The maximum amount of support that the State of Missouri may keep is the amount paid to you in Temporary Assistance payments.

When you assign your rights to support to the State of Missouri, you may **not**:

1. Make any agreement with the person who owes support which would change or eliminate the duty to pay past unpaid child support;
2. Make any agreement with the person who owes support which would affect the duty to pay current support;
3. Make any agreement with the person who owes support which would affect the duty to pay or the amount of future support;
4. Should you request a private attorney to collect either current or past support for you, you should advise him/her that all money collected will go to the State as long as the Assignment is in effect for current child support or arrearages. Should the state's claim be fully satisfied, the State will refund any overpayments.
5. You may **not** agree to any substitute for the support payments that were ordered by the court. For example, you cannot agree to let the person who owes support make the house or car payment instead of the cash child support payment.

If you receive any child support between the date of this assignment and the date of your approval, you must notify your Temporary Assistance worker so it can be budgeted.

If you are receiving child support when you are approved for Temporary Assistance, all child support must be sent to the Child Support Enforcement Unit the month following the month of your approval. EXAMPLE: You are receiving child support payments when you apply for Temporary Assistance in October. If your Temporary Assistance case is approved in November, you must send all support received in December or after to the Child Support Enforcement Unit.

If you are not receiving child support payments when you apply, and your Temporary Assistance case is approved, all support, should you later receive any, must go to the Child Support Enforcement Unit beginning with the first day of the month you will receive your first Temporary Assistance benefits.

When the state collects the support, you need not be concerned about whether the support money will come on time, be late, or not be the right amount. If a parent is not making appropriate support payments, the state will take legal action to see that such payments are made directly to the state. Your Temporary Assistance benefits will be the full amount to which you are entitled without consideration of the support.

If at any time the support collected equals or exceeds your Temporary Assistance grant, you will be notified. If your Temporary Assistance case is closed, the support will be sent to you. Once your Temporary Assistance case is closed, the state may collect and keep support that is past due at that time to repay the amount of assistance given you. However, no current support would be retained by the state to repay past due support obligations.

THIS APPLIES TO MEDICAID RECIPIENTS

When you and your children are approved for healthcare coverage, you transfer your rights to medical support to the State of Missouri. You must cooperate with the Division of Child Support Enforcement in obtaining medical support. If you refuse to cooperate without "good cause", your child(ren) may still be eligible for healthcare coverage but you will not.

As a service, the Division of Child Support Enforcement will pursue and collect child support payments which will be sent to you.

Please ask your caseworker/case manager to help you or contact your nearest Child Support Enforcement Office if you have further questions.