

## Requirements of Claiming Good Cause

### How Do I Claim Good Cause?

To claim good cause for refusing to cooperate with child support recovery:

- ◆ Read this form and sign page 2,
- ◆ Keep the copy for your information,
- ◆ Return the signed original to the local Department of Human Services (DHS) office, and
- ◆ Give proof of your reason for good cause.

### What Are Reasons for Good Cause?

You may have good cause if cooperating is against the child's best interest because:

- ◆ Your cooperation would be expected to result in physical or emotional harm to the child,
- ◆ Your cooperation would be expected to result in physical or emotional harm to you that would reduce your ability to adequately care for the child,
- ◆ The child was born as the result of forcible rape or incest,
- ◆ Court proceedings are going on for the adoption of the child, or
- ◆ You are working with an agency to help you decide whether to place the child for adoption.

### How Do I Prove I Have Good Cause?

Proof can be copies of things like:

- ◆ Court, medical, criminal, child protective, social services or law enforcement records that show the absent parent might cause physical or emotional harm to you or the child.
- ◆ Medical records or statements from mental health professionals concerning the emotional health of you or your child.
- ◆ Birth certificates, medical or law enforcement records that show the child was born as the result of rape or incest.
- ◆ Court documents or other records that show adoption proceedings are pending in court.
- ◆ A statement from an agency that is working with you to decide whether to place the child for adoption.
- ◆ Sworn statements from people, including friends, neighbors, clergy, social workers, or others, who have information about your reason for good cause.

You must provide the proof within 20 days after you ask for good cause. If you need help getting the proof or need more time, ask your income maintenance worker for help.

## What Happens After I Give the Proof?

DHS may decide your claim based on the proof you give them or decide to investigate further. Your worker will tell you if you need to provide more information. DHS will not contact the absent parent without telling you first.

The Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU) may review the findings and the basis for good cause in your case. If you request a hearing of the decision, CSRU may participate in that hearing.

You will be notified in writing whether your good cause claim is approved or denied.

## What Happens If My Claim Is Denied?

You will be given a chance to cooperate with child support recovery, or to withdraw the application or have your case closed.

If your claim is denied and you do not cooperate:

- ◆ For FIP: Your grant will be cut by 25%.
- ◆ For Medicaid: You will not get Medicaid for yourself.

## What Happens If My Claim Is Approved?

If your good cause claim is approved, CSRU may attempt to establish paternity or collect support only if DHS determines that this can be done without risk to you or your child. This will not be done without telling you first.

I have read this information and would like to claim good cause for refusing to cooperate with child support recovery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant or Participant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)