



Relevant Rules for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence:

In general, program requirements should be waived if compliance is more difficult, it hinders the client from escaping their sexual/domestic violence circumstance, it unfairly penalizes them, or subjects them to further violence. (PM 21-01-05)

TANF and the Family Violence Exclusion ("FVE"):

Family violence exclusion is a request to be excused from work, training, or education due to domestic or sexual violence. A client can apply for FVE by asking their caseworker for one at any time. (PM 21-01-05-a)

1. A FVE is approved if the person is experiencing 1) a current domestic violence or sexual crisis, 2) the effects of a prior domestic or sexual violence situation 3) or the risk of future domestic or sexual violence which makes it hard to participate in the work, training, or school activities for 30 hours per week, OR 4) it is unsafe for them to participate in the activities. (PM 21-01-05)
2. An individual can be approved for a FVE if a family member or they are recovering from physical or psychological injuries, are seeking or receiving medical attention, counseling, or other services, are participating in safety planning or seeking legal assistance. (PM 21-01-05)
3. IDHS is never allowed to contact the abuser, their family or any other person the client states is unsafe unless the client gives consent. (PM 21-01-05-b)
4. The client is NOT required to participate in work/training/education while they are obtaining proof of DV. (PM 21-01-05-b)
5. IDHS must help a client obtain proof of DV if the client asks. (PM 21-01-05-b)
6. A FVE can be approved for up to 6 months and can be continued after 6 months for as many times as deemed necessary. (PM 21-01-05-e)
7. If a caseworker decides to discontinue a family violence exclusion, he/she MUST inform the client. (PM 21-01-05-e)
8. A client's TANF clock stops while they are receiving a FVE. (PM 21-01-05-g)

Crisis Assistance ("CA"):

1. A client can apply for CA when they are experiencing domestic or sexual violence. They can receive extra cash for rent, furniture, household supplies, clothing, and food.
2. The client must qualify for the additional assistance and prove a need. To prove a loss of income because the abuser was the principal supplier, paystubs, tax returns, or bills must be provided. (WAG 06-03-01)

Child Support:

1. When applying for TANF, a client must cooperate with child support unless they have good cause or a valid reason for not cooperating. (PM 24-02-04 and PM 24-02-05)
2. Good cause includes the possibility of the child being adopted out, when the child was conceived through rape or incest, when there may be emotional harm to the client or child, and when there is domestic or sexual violence or a fear of it. (PM 24-02-04)
3. Presume Good Cause for not cooperating when a person is approved for a FVE due to actions of a non-custodial parent. (PM 21-01-05)
4. The same proof standards from PM 21-01-05-b are used to prove sexual or domestic violence. To prove rape or incest, adoption, of emotional harm, proof beyond the statement of the client is required. (PM 24-02-04-a)

Transportation:

1. A caseworker cannot schedule an office visit or activities that create a hardship on the client. If transportation is not available, the caseworker must contact the client by telephone or mail. (PM 06-04-06)

Screening for DV

1. Screening for domestic and sexual violence must be done when a caseworker is doing intake for an initial application, during an "intensive Case Review", when they are "Swapping" a case from medical to TANF, before making a referral to child support, and whenever they suspect it. (PM 21-04-02-a)

Exceptions to the 60 month TANF limit:

1. One exception to the 60 month limit is being involved in an intensive program that prevents working 30 hours/week including a domestic or sexual violence program. (PM 03-06-05)

Notices and appeals:

1. A written notice must be sent to a client when IDHS approves or denies a written request for any benefit, when they reduce, suspend, void or cancel benefits, when they place a request in pending status, etc. (PM 01-06-01)
2. Any actions, inactions, decisions, determinations, response to a report form, or any issue of policy that a person disagrees with may be appealed. This includes decisions and actions of Department agents, Site-administered Child Care Provider, or Work & Training contractor. (PM 1-07-01)