



## TANF 1508-1 Good Cause Criteria

**Supersedes: TANF 1509-1 (1/1/18)**

**Reference:** ARM 37.78.508

**Overview:** The applicant/client is provided the opportunity to present and verify reason(s) why he/she failed to comply with program requirements.

Each good cause claim is evaluated to determine if good cause criteria is met. Adverse action is not taken when good cause criteria is met.

Good cause criteria does not apply to filing/assistance unit members that do not or no longer reside in the home and do not meet the criteria for Temporary Absence.

Good cause does not apply to households who are applying for extended benefits.

In the policy below, temporary is defined as three (3) days or less in duration.

### **GOOD CAUSE CRITERIA RELATED TO EMPLOYABILITY/SERVICE PLAN REQUIREMENTS:**

To avoid adverse action for failing to comply with Employability/Service Plan requirements including negotiated activities for all missed hours, communication, and client advocacy meetings, one the following circumstances must be present and verified by the client:

1. A temporary, severe illness or incapacity (for the duration of the illness or incapacity) of:
  - a. the client; or
  - b. another household member sufficiently serious to require the presence of the client.
    - i. Illness or incapacity longer than three (3) days requires medical documentation.
2. Death of a family member within the 5<sup>th</sup> degree of kinship (up to a maximum of five (5) working days).
3. Temporary inability to obtain necessary child care (through no fault of the client);
4. Adverse weather conditions which make travel impossible or unreasonably dangerous as experienced by others in the community;
5. Temporary lack of transportation in a case where the client cannot reasonably be expected to walk or bicycle because of the distance or the client's health or physical limitations;

- a. Transportation is considered to be available if the client has the use of a private vehicle, public transportation, or can ride with someone else, provided the client will not be required to accept a ride under circumstances which would be considered dangerous or unsuitable.
- 6. Current domestic violence situation; or
- 7. Inability to provide verification due to circumstances beyond their control.

**GOOD CAUSE CRITERIA RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT:**

To avoid adverse action as a result of terminating employment, reducing earnings or refusing suitable employment, one the following circumstances must be present and verified by the client:

- 1. A temporary, severe illness or incapacity (for the duration of the illness or incapacity) of:
  - a. the client; or
  - b. another household member sufficiently serious to require the presence of the client.
    - i. Illness or incapacity longer than three (3) days requires medical documentation.
- 2. A physical or mental impairment , as determined and verified by a qualified medical professional involved in the treatment of the individual;
- 3. Temporary inability to obtain necessary child care during employment hours (through no fault of the client);
- 4. Temporary lack of transportation in a case where the client cannot reasonably be expected to walk or bicycle because of the distance or the client’s health or physical limitations;
  - a. Transportation is considered to be available if the client has the use of a private vehicle, public transportation, or can ride with someone else, provided the client will not be required to accept a ride under circumstances which would be considered dangerous or unsuitable.
- 5. Current domestic violence situation;
- 6. The individual is 60 years of age or older;
- 7. Unsuitable working conditions because of an unreasonable degree of risk to health or safety or lack of worker’s compensation coverage;
- 8. Lacks the necessary work-related skills for the employment and cannot acquire such skills in time to obtain or retain the employment; or
- 9. Wage is less than the state minimum wage.

**GOOD CAUSE CRITERIA RELATED TO FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY:**

To avoid adverse action as a result of failing to provide financial and/or non-financial verification to determine or continue eligibility, the client must present and verify that the non-compliance was due to circumstances beyond their control.

**GOOD CAUSE VERIFICATION:**

Verification is usually in the form of a document or report from a professional in the field with direct knowledge of the good cause claim reason. In situations where professional documentation does not exist, a signed statement from another individual who is familiar with the situation can be accepted.

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2022