



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC038 Upstate and New York City
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To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Temporary Assistance (TA) Directors, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Directors, Welfare Management System (WMS) Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Staff
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Child Support Good Cause Guidance for Certain Intact Families When a Parent is Not Living with the Family
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance Bureau: (518) 474-9344 or: tabureau@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to advise social services districts (districts) of flexibilities within child support cooperation requirements for otherwise intact families when one parent is missing due to certain extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control.

The Office of Family Assistance (OFA) and the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued joint guidance to clarify good cause exemptions available to intact families when a parent is not living with the family.

There are child support considerations for Public Assistance (PA), which includes Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA), applicants/recipients whose otherwise intact families are separated or where one parent is missing through circumstances beyond their control, such as political violence in another country. These families may apply for FA or SNA when the parent who is absent is still a part of the intact family but is unable to join the family.

Separated families may be reluctant to provide information about an absent parent for fear of endangering them, or they may be unable to provide information about a missing parent.

Good cause claims must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis when PA applicants/recipients indicate they lack information regarding a missing or absent parent who is still part of the intact family but is unable to join the family in the United States due to circumstances beyond their control. Although this may not fall under a good cause exemption for child support as outlined in New York State regulation, districts must follow the process for meeting a PA eligibility requirement under 18 NYCRR 351.26(a)(3) to determine whether an applicant/recipient will qualify for a good cause determination. The PA applicant/recipient must be afforded the opportunity to demonstrate good cause. If the good cause claim is found to be valid, districts must not impose a child support sanction for non-cooperation. Any PA applicant/recipient who is found to not have good cause will be subject to regular child support requirements, and a child support sanction will be applicable for any refusal to cooperate.