

**NOTICE AND AGREEMENT FOR CHILD, SPOUSAL AND MEDICAL SUPPORT**

**Complete one form for each noncustodial parent or alleged father.**

**Assignment and Cooperation Rules**

You must assign (give to) the county any rights you may have for:

- Any child or spousal support payments you get while receiving cash aid.
- Medical support you get while getting Medi-Cal.

The receipt of a cash aid payment and/or Medi-Cal Benefits Identification Card (BIC) will assign the past and present support rights of all persons for whom you are requesting cash aid and/or medical assistance. You will be sent facts on the amount of support the county gets from the noncustodial parent(s).

**Cooperation**

You must cooperate with the county and the Local Child Support Agency (LCSA) to:

- Identify and locate any noncustodial parent/alleged father in your case;
- Tell the county or LCSA any time you get facts about the noncustodial parent/alleged father, such as place of residence or work location;
- Agree to cooperate in the support enforcement process or to claim good cause for refusing to cooperate by completing this Notice and Agreement;
- Complete the Child Support Questionnaire (CW 2.1Q) for each noncustodial parent or alleged father;
- Establish paternity and get child and/or spousal support;
- Submit to genetic testing if paternity is in question;
- Obtain any other payments or property due any member of your assistance unit;
- Obtain medical support money from any noncustodial parent and, if you get cash aid, obtain child support money;
- Tell the county about medical coverage or money for medical services paid by the noncustodial parent and complete the Health Insurance Questionnaire form (DHS 6155);
- Give the LCSA any medical support money from any noncustodial parent, and any child/spousal support money you get;
- Appear at the county or LCSA office to sign papers or give required facts;
- Appear at hearings or in court when necessary;
- Fill out and sign an Attestation Statement, if asked by the LCSA. On this form you declare under penalty of perjury that you have given all the facts you know about the noncustodial parent/alleged father. If you sign the form and you do not report all the facts or give wrong facts, you can be fined or sent to jail/prison.

**Benefits of Cooperation**

Your cooperation can help you and your child(ren). Finding the noncustodial parent and establishing paternity may give you and your child(ren) rights to future social security, veterans, or other benefits. The LCSA will continue enforcement after you go off cash aid or Medi-Cal unless you make a request in writing to the LCSA to stop.

**Good Cause for Not Cooperating**

- Good cause is the right to refuse to cooperate because it is not in the best interests of you or your child(ren).
- You have the right to claim good cause for not cooperating if you have an acceptable reason for refusing to cooperate with the county and the LCSA.
- The back of this form gives you facts about good cause. If you want more facts about good cause and/or refusal to cooperate, ask your worker to explain them to you.

**Penalty for Refusal to Cooperate**

If you do not have good cause, there are penalties if you refuse to assign support rights, refuse or fail to give the county any support given to you by the noncustodial parent(s), or refuse to cooperate with the LCSA, including in determining paternity.

- **For cash aid applicants/recipients:**
  - If you refuse to assign support rights or refuse/fail to give the county any support given to you, you will not be eligible for cash aid or Medi-Cal. Your child(ren) may still be eligible for aid/benefits and your case will be referred to the LCSA.
  - If you refuse or fail to cooperate in the paternity or support enforcement process, your family's grant will be lowered by 25 percent until you cooperate and you may not get Medi-Cal. This penalty ends effective the first day of the month in which you do cooperate.
- **For applicants/beneficiaries of Medi-Cal Only:** You will not be eligible for Medi-Cal benefits, but your child(ren) may still be eligible.

**Certification and Agreement:**

- I understand my rights and responsibilities as written on this notice.
  - I understand the rules for assigning support rights to the county.
  - I also understand my right to claim good cause.
- I agree to cooperate with the county and the LCSA as listed above.
- I claim good cause and refuse to cooperate at this time.

NAME OF NONCUSTODIAL PARENT/ALLEGED FATHER

- I refuse to assign child/spousal support rights (cash aid).
- I refuse to assign medical support rights (cash aid and Medi-Cal).

Signature of Parent or Caretaker Relative, or Medi-Cal Applicant/Beneficiary	Date	Case Name	Case Number
--	------	-----------	-------------

I certify that I have notified the applicant, cash aid recipient, or Medi-Cal beneficiary of his/her rights and responsibilities by means of this notice and orally as needed.

County Worker's Signature	Worker's Number	Date
---------------------------	-----------------	------

---

---

## **YOUR RIGHT TO CLAIM GOOD CAUSE**

### **Reasons for Claiming Good Cause:**

- Cooperation would increase the risk of physical, sexual, or emotional harm to the child(ren).
- Cooperation would increase the risk of domestic abuse for the parent or caretaker relative.
- The child(ren) was conceived due to incest or rape.
- Court proceedings are going on for the adoption of the child(ren).
- You are working with an adoption agency to help you decide whether to keep or place the child(ren) for adoption.
- You are cooperating in good faith but are not able to identify or help locate the noncustodial parent.
- You have other credible reasons why cooperation would not be in the best interest of the child(ren).

### **How to Claim Good Cause:**

- If you want to claim good cause, you must tell your worker. You can do this whenever you believe you have good cause not to cooperate.
- You must also complete and sign the Good Cause Claim form which your worker will give you.
- If you claim good cause, you must:
  - Give the county proof that you have good cause for refusing to cooperate.
  - Give the proof to the county within 20 days of claiming good cause. The county will give you more time if it determines that you need more than 20 days to get your proof.
- If you are claiming good cause and it is not possible for you to get proof, tell the worker.

### **The Role of the County:**

- The county reviews your Good Cause Claim and the proof you provide and decides whether you have good cause.
- The county investigates your facts.
- The county will tell you when you need to provide:
  - more proof to support your good cause claim, and/or
  - additional facts so that it will not be necessary to contact the noncustodial parent or alleged father.

## **What Is Acceptable Evidence to Claim Good Cause for Not Cooperating?**

- Birth certificates, medical/mental health, rape crisis, domestic violence program, or police/sheriff records that show that the child(ren) was conceived due to incest or rape.
- Records that show you have asked for help with abuse toward you and/or the child(ren); or records that show evidence of abuse. These records can be from police/sheriff, governmental agency, or court records; facts from a domestic violence program or a professional from whom you have asked for help in dealing with abuse; physical evidence of abuse, or any other evidence that supports an exemption from the cooperation rules.
- Court documents or other records that show that a legal adoption is pending in court.
- A written statement from an adoption agency confirming that you are being helped to decide whether to keep or place your child(ren) up for adoption.
- Credible sworn statements under penalty of perjury about the history of abuse or the increased risk of abuse, from either you or other people who know about the reasons for your good cause claim for not cooperating.

### **The Role of the Local Child Support Agency (LCSA):**

- If you request a hearing on the issue of good cause, the LCSA may take part in that hearing.
- The LCSA may try to establish paternity or collect child support if:
  - Establishing paternity or collecting child support will not increase risk of harm to you or the child(ren).
  - You do not have good cause for refusing to cooperate.
- After the county tells the LCSA that an applicant/recipient has claimed to be exempt from the cooperation rules, the LCSA will not pursue child support enforcement activities unless the applicant/recipient asks for these actions to begin or to begin again.