

137-055-1120
Case Closure

(1) The administrator may close a child support case, whenever the case meets at least one of the following criteria for case closure:

(a) There is no longer a current support order, and arrears are under \$500 and there are no reasonable expectations for collection or the arrears are uncollectible under state law;

(b) The non-custodial parent or putative father is deceased and no further action, including a levy against the estate, can be taken;

(c) Paternity cannot be established because:

(A) A parentage test, or a court or administrative process, has excluded the putative father and no other putative father can be identified;

(B) In a case involving incest or forcible rape, or where legal proceedings for adoption are pending, the Department of Human Services (DHS) or the administrator has determined that it would not be in the best interests of the child to establish paternity; or

(C) The identity of the biological father is unknown and cannot be identified after diligent efforts, including at least one interview by the administrator with the recipient of services;

(D) Action to establish paternity has not been initiated and the child is at least 18 years old.

(d) The location of the non-custodial parent is unknown, and the state parent locator service has made regular attempts using multiple sources, all of which have been unsuccessful, to locate the non-custodial parent:

(A) Over a three-year period when there is sufficient information to initiate an automated locate effort; or

(B) Over a one-year period when there is not sufficient information to initiate an automated locate effort;

(e) When paternity is not at issue and the non-custodial parent cannot pay support for the duration of the child's minority because the parent is both:

(A) Institutionalized in a psychiatric facility, is incarcerated with no chance for parole, or has a medically verified total and permanent disability with no evidence of support potential; and

(B) Without available income or assets which could be levied or attached for support;

(f) The non-custodial parent:

(A) Is a citizen of, and lives in, a foreign country;

(B) Does not work for the Federal government or for a company or state with headquarters in or offices in the United States;

(C) Has no reachable income or assets in the United States; and

(D) Oregon has been unable to establish reciprocity with the country;

(g) The state parent locator service has provided location-only services based upon a request under 45 CFR 302.35(c)(3);

(h) The custodial parent or recipient of services requests closure, and:

(A) There is no assignment to the state of medical support; and

(B) There is no assignment of arrears that have accrued on the case;

(i) The custodial parent or recipient of services is deceased and no trustee or personal representative has requested services to collect arrears;

(j) DHS or the administrator pursuant to OAR 137-055-1100(2), has made a finding of good cause or other exceptions to cooperation and has determined that support enforcement may not proceed without risk or harm to the child or caretaker;

(k) In a non-TANF case (excluding a Medicaid case), the administrator is unable to contact the custodial parent, or recipient of services, within 60 calendar days, despite an attempt of at least one letter sent by first class mail to the last known address;

(l) In a non-TANF case, the administrator documents the circumstances of non-cooperation by the custodial parent, or recipient of services, and an action by the custodial parent, or applicant for services, is essential for the next step in providing enforcement services; or

(m) The administrator documents failure by the initiating state to take an action which is essential for the next step in providing services.

(2)(a)(A) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if the administrator elects to close a case pursuant to subsection (1)(a), (1)(e), (1)(f), (1)(i) or (1)(k) through (1)(m) of this rule, the administrator will notify all parties to the case in writing at least 60 calendar days prior to closure of the case of the intent to close the case.

(B) If the administrator elects to close a case pursuant to subsection (1)(b) through (1)(d) of this rule, the administrator:

(i) Will notify the obligee and any child attending school in writing at least 60 days prior to closure of the case of the intent to close the case;

(ii) Is not required to notify the obligor of the intent to close the case; and

(iii) If the provisions of paragraph (1)(c)(D) apply, is not required to notify any other party.

(C) If the administrator elects to close a case pursuant to subsection (1)(g) of this rule, the administrator is not required to notify any party of the intent to close the case.

(D) If the administrator elects to close a case pursuant to subsection (1)(h) of this rule, the administrator will notify all parties to the case in writing at least 60 calendar days prior to closure of the case of the intent to close the case, except:

(i) When the case is a Child Welfare or Oregon Youth Authority case in which the child has left state care, an order under OAR 137-055-3290 is not appropriate, and a notice and finding has not been initiated, the case will be closed immediately; and

(ii) No closure notice will be sent to the parties unless a party had contact with the Child Support Program, Child Welfare or the Oregon Youth Authority regarding the child support case.

(E) If the administrator elects to close a case pursuant to subsection (1)(j) of this rule, the administrator will:

(i) Notify the obligee and any child attending school in writing at least 60 days prior to closure of the case of the intent to close the case; and

(ii) Not notify the obligor of the intent to close the case.

(b) The 60-day time frame in paragraph (2)(a)(A) is independent of the 60-day calendar time frame in subsection (1)(k).

(c) The administrator will document the notice of case closure by entering a narrative line, or lines, on the child support computer system and will include the date of the notice.

(d) The content of the notice in paragraph (2)(a)(A) must include, but is not limited to, the specific reason for closure, actions a party can take to prevent closure, and a statement that an individual may reapply for services at any time.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(a)(A) of this rule, a case may be closed immediately

if:

(a) All parties agree to waive the notice of intent to close and the 60-day objection period when the notice of intent to close has not yet been sent; or

(b) All parties agree to waive the remainder of the 60-day objection period when the notice of intent to close has already been sent.

(4) The administrator will keep a case open if, in response to the notice sent pursuant to paragraph (2)(a)(A) of this rule:

(a) The applicant or recipient of services:

(A) Supplies information which could lead to the establishment of paternity or of a support order, or enforcement of an order; or

(B) Reestablishes contact with the administrator, in cases where the administrator proposed to close the case under subsection (1)(k) of this rule; or

(b) The party who is not the applicant or recipient of services completes an application for services.

(5) A party may request at a later date that the case be reopened if there is a change in circumstances that could lead to the establishment of paternity or a support order, or enforcement of an order, by completing a new application for services.

(6) The administrator will document the justification for case closure by entering a narrative line or lines on the child support computer system in sufficient detail to communicate the basis for the case closure.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 25.080 and 180.345

Stats. Implemented: ORS 25.020 and 25.080

Effective Date: January 3, 2006