

137-055-1090
Good Cause

(1) For the purposes of OAR chapter 137, division 055, “good cause” means the Child Support Program (CSP) is exempt from providing services as defined in ORS 25.080. Specifically excluded from this definition is good cause for not withholding as defined in ORS 25.396 and OAR 137-055-4060 and good cause found for not disbursing support to a child attending school under ORS 107.108 and OAR 137-055-5110.

(2) If an obligee believes that physical or emotional harm to the family may result if services under ORS 25.080 are provided, the obligee may request, either verbally or in writing, that the administrator discontinue all activity against the obligor. Upon such a request by an obligee, the administrator will:

(a) On an open TANF or Medicaid case, immediately suspend all activity on the case, notify DHS or OHA to add good cause coding, and send a safety packet to the obligee requesting a response be sent to DHS; or

(b) On any other case, immediately suspend all activity on the case, add good cause case coding pending a final determination, and send a Client Safety Packet on Good Cause to the obligee requesting a response within 30 days.

(3) Good cause must be determined by:

(a) The Department of Human Services (DHS), pursuant to OAR 413-100-0830, 461-120-0350, 461-120-0360, 461-135-1200 or 461-135-1205, if TANF or Title IV-E benefits are being provided;

(b) The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) if Medicaid benefits are being provided;

(c) The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), pursuant to OAR 416-100-0020 and Policy Statement II-E-1.5, if the child is in OYA’s custody;

(d) The Director of the CSP when the provisions of OAR 137-055-3080 apply; or

(e) The administrator when the provisions of subsections (a) through (d) of this section do not apply.

(4) When the provisions of subsection (3)(e) apply and the obligee makes a written claim that the provision of services may result in emotional or physical harm to the child or obligee or completes and returns the good cause form, the administrator will:

(a) Make a finding and determination that it is in the best interests of the child not to provide services;

- (b) Proceed with case closure pursuant to OAR 137-055-1120; and
- (c) Except for arrears permanently assigned to the Oregon Youth Authority, satisfy any and all permanently assigned arrears as defined in OAR 137-055-6010.
- (5) In determining whether providing services is in the best interest of the child under section (3)(d), the CSP Director will consider:
 - (a) The likelihood that provision of services will result in physical or emotional harm to the child or obligee, taking into consideration:
 - (A) Information received from the obligee; or
 - (B) Records or corroborative statements of past physical or emotional harm to the child or obligee, if any.
 - (b) The likelihood that failure to provide services will result in physical or emotional harm to the child or obligee;
 - (c) The degree of cooperation needed to complete the service;
 - (d) The availability and viability of other protections, such as a finding of risk and order for non-disclosure pursuant to OAR 137-055-1160; and
 - (e) The extent of involvement of the child in the services sought.
- (6) A finding and determination by the CSP Director that good cause does not apply, may be appealed as provided in ORS 183.484.
- (7) A finding and determination of good cause applies to any case which involves the same obligee and child, or any case in which a child is no longer in the physical custody of the obligee, but there is a support order for the child in favor of the obligee.
- (8) When an application for services is received from an obligee and TANF, Title IV-E or Medicaid benefits are not being provided, the child is not in OYA's custody, and there has been a previous finding and determination of good cause, the administrator will:
 - (a) Notify the obligee of the previous finding and determination of good cause and provide a Client Safety Packet;
 - (b) Allow the obligee 30 days to retract the application for services or return appropriate documents from the Client Safety Packet; and
 - (c) If no objection to proceeding or good cause form is received from the obligee, document CSEAS, remove the good cause designation and, if the case has been

closed, reopen the case.

(9) When an application for services is received from a physical custodian of a child, the physical custodian is not the obligee who originally claimed good cause and TANF, Title IV-E or Medicaid benefits are not being provided, the child is not in OYA's custody and there is no previous support award, the administrator will open a new case without good cause coding with the physical custodian as the obligee.

(10)(a) When an application for services is received from a physical custodian of a child, the physical custodian is not the obligee who originally claimed good cause and TANF, Title IV-E or Medicaid benefits are not being provided, the child is not in OYA's custody, and the case in which there has been a finding and determination of good cause has a support award in favor of the obligee who originally claimed good cause, the administrator will:

(A) Notify the obligee who originally claimed good cause that an application has been received and provide a Client Safety Packet; and

(B) Advise the obligee who originally claimed good cause that the previous good cause finding and determination will be treated as a claim of risk as provided in OAR 137-055-1160; and

(C) Allow the obligee 30 days to provide a contact address as provided in OAR 137-055-1160.

(b) If an objection or good cause form is received from the obligee who originally claimed good cause, or if the location of the obligee who originally claimed good cause is unknown, the administrator will forward the objection, form or case to the Director of the CSP for a determination of whether to proceed;

(c) If no objection or good cause form is received from the obligee who originally claimed good cause, the administrator will document CSEAS, make a finding of risk and order for non-disclosure pursuant to OAR 137-055-1160 for that obligee, remove the good cause designation, and, if the case has been closed, reopen the case.

(11)(a) If a request for services under ORS chapter 110 is received from another jurisdiction and TANF, Title IV-E or Medicaid benefits are not being provided by the State of Oregon, the child is not in OYA's custody and there has been a finding and determination of good cause, the administrator will:

(A) Notify the referring jurisdiction of the finding and determination of good cause and request that the jurisdiction consult with the obligee to determine whether good cause should still apply; and

(B) If the location of the obligee is known, notify the obligee that the referral has been

received, provide a Client Safety Packet and ask the obligee to contact both the referring agency and the administrator if there is an objection to proceeding; and

(C) Advise the obligee who originally claimed good cause that the previous good cause finding and determination will be treated as a claim of risk as provided in OAR 137-055-1160; and

(D) Allow the obligee 30 days to provide a contact address as provided in OAR 137-055-1160.

(b) If an objection or good cause form is received from the obligee, the administrator will forward the objection, form or case to the Director of the CSP for a determination of whether to proceed.

(c) If there is no objection or good cause form received from the obligee, or if the obligee's address is unknown, and the referring jurisdiction advises that the finding and determination of good cause no longer applies, the administrator will document CSEAS, remove the good cause designation and, if the case has been closed, reopen the case.

(12) If a referral for services under ORS 25.080 is received because TANF, Title IV-E or Medicaid benefits are being provided or the child is in OYA's custody, and there has been a previous finding and determination of good cause, the administrator will notify the appropriate state agency of the previous finding and determination of good cause and:

(a) If TANF, Title IV-E or Medicaid benefits are being provided, DHS will, in consultation with the office which made the good cause finding and determination and as provided in DHS policy SS-PT-05-005, decide whether good cause still applies pursuant to OAR 413-100-0830, 461-135-1200, 461-135-1205, 461-120-0350 or 461-120-0360; or

(b) If the child is in OYA's custody, OYA will, in consultation with the office which made the good cause finding and determination and as provided in OYA Policy II-E-1.5, determine if the circumstances that created the good cause still exist and, if they do not, request that the agency which determined good cause remove the coding.

(13) When the provisions of section (12) apply, the administrator will not provide services unless and until good cause coding is removed by the agency who made the good cause finding and determination.

(14) Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, when a case has not previously had a good cause finding and determination and TANF, Title IV-E or Medicaid benefits are being provided or the child is in OYA's custody, and DHS, OHA or OYA makes a current good cause finding and determination on a related case, the administrator will not provide services on the case or related cases unless and until good cause coding is removed by DHS, OHA or OYA.

(15) In any case in which a good cause finding and determination has been made and subsequently removed, past support under ORS 416.422 and OAR 137-055-3220 may not be sought for any periods prior to the determination that good cause no longer applies.

(16) In any case in which a good cause finding and determination has been made, and a child attending school as defined in ORS 107.108 and OAR 137-055-5110 is a party to the case, the child attending school may file an application for services pursuant to OAR 137-055-1060, OAR 137-055-1070 and OAR 137-055-5110.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 180.345

Stats. Implemented: ORS 25.080

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