

NOTICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

BENEFITS OF SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Your cooperation in the child support enforcement process may be of value to you and your child because it might result in the following benefits:

- Finding the noncustodial parent;
- Legally establishing your child's paternity;
- The possibility of securing support payments and/or medical insurance coverage; and
- The possibility that you and your children may obtain rights to future social security, veterans, or other government benefits, or establish rights of inheritance.

WHAT IS MEANT BY COOPERATION?

The law requires you to cooperate with the State to get any support owed to you and any children for whom you request TANF or SNAP unless you have good cause. In cooperating with the State you may be asked to do one or more of the following things:

- Name the parent of any child for whom you are applying or receiving TANF or SNAP benefits and give information needed to help find the parent;
- Help to legally establish paternity, if your child was born out of wedlock;
- Help to obtain money and/or medical support owed to you and/or children on assistance;
- Come to the local child support enforcement office or to court to sign papers or give necessary information;
- Submit to genetic testing.

HOW AND WHEN YOU MAY CLAIM GOOD CAUSE

You may request good cause to be excused from cooperating if you believe that cooperation would not be in the best interest of you or your child. You must provide evidence to support this claim. If you want to claim good cause, you must tell your child support worker. You can do this at any time you believe you have good reason not to cooperate. If you are found to have good cause for not cooperating, child support staff may still attempt to establish paternity, if necessary, and collect support if they determine that this can be done without risk to you.

SUPPORT ASSIGNMENT

As a condition of eligibility for **TANF** you are required to assign your rights to child support to the State. The law specifies that you have made assignment when you accept TANF benefits. We will not use the support payments to determine the amount of your TANF benefits as long as you would be eligible if the money were counted. You must pay to the Mississippi Department of Human Services any money which is given directly to you by the noncustodial parent for any reason as soon as it is received.

For **SNAP** benefits, the parent or person exercising parental control of a child under age 18 who has a noncustodial parent must cooperate with child support. If the legal parent is in the home he/she must cooperate for his/her children. If no legal parent is in the home, the adult relative exercising parental control must cooperate. If there is no adult relative, you or the person identified as acting in the place of the parent must cooperate with child support for any child who has a noncustodial parent. Any child support received must be reported to your eligibility worker for SNAP eligibility purposes, and will be redirected to the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

RECOVERY

The amount of your TANF benefits and transportation received from the TANF Work Program, and any unrecovered money payments received by you in the past will be withheld from your

current child support collections. If there is any money remaining after the TANF recovery, the Division of Field Operations, Child Support will post the remaining money on your Mississippi Debit Mastercard.

FAILURE TO COOPERATE

Your **TANF** application will be denied if you do not cooperate and you do not have good cause. If you are already receiving TANF your case will be closed. You will not be eligible again until your cooperation or good cause is verified by child support enforcement.

For **SNAP** benefits, if the responsible person fails to cooperate with child support enforcement without good cause he/she will be disqualified from SNAP. The income and resources of the disqualified individual will continue to count when determining benefits. The children and other household members may remain eligible.

List below the name of any child for whom you are applying or receiving TANF or SNAP and the child's father or alleged father's name.

<u>CHILD</u>	<u>FATHER OR ALLEGED FATHER</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

I have read and understand my rights and responsibilities regarding child support enforcement for TANF and SNAP. I understand that it is my responsibility to explain these requirements to the caretakers of other children in my case.

Signature _____ Date _____

MDHS-EA-941 explained copy provided to the applicant/recipient.

Worker's Signature _____ Date _____