



Sanctions: Good Cause For Noncompliance (Part 1 of 2)¹

As of April 2000

Good Cause reasons for noncompliance with work requirements ²							
State	Child Care unavailable (up to age) ³	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disability/ Incapacity	Temporary disability/ Incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced Age (years)	Domestic Violence (conditions)
Totals	47	20	32	38	37	18	29
Alaska	T 5 years	T 17 weeks				T 59 years	Only if participation would interfere with attempt to escape domestic violence
Alabama	T 12 years				T	T	
Arkansas	T 12 years	T	T	T	T	T	
Arizona	T 12 years	T 1 year	T	T	T		T Allowed for up to 6 months if there is a demonstrated threat to safety
California	T 10 years						T If participation is detrimental to, or unfairly penalizes the individual or her family
Colorado ⁴							

Good Cause reasons for noncompliance with work requirements ²							
State	Child Care unavailable (up to age) ³	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disability/ Incapacity	Temporary disability/ Incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced Age (years)	Domestic Violence (conditions)
Connecticut	T 12 years			T	T		T If there are physical or psychological injuries that prevent work activities; activity substantially interrupted due to domestic violence; abuse actively interferes with work or childcare; applicant at risk if participating in activities; activities make it harder for recipient to escape domestic violence.
District of Columbia	T 5 years	T 1 year	T	T	T	T 60 years	T
Delaware	T 12 years		T	T	T		T
Florida	T 5 years			T	T		T
Georgia	T 12 years			T	T		T
Hawaii	T 5 years	T 6 months	T	T	T	T 60 years	Must be able to verify domestic violence and that participation in work activity would interfere with recovery from domestic violence.
Iowa	T 12 years		T	T	T		T
Idaho	T 5 years	T					

Good Cause reasons for noncompliance with work requirements ²							
State	Child Care unavailable (up to age) ³	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disability/ Incapacity	Temporary disability/ Incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced Age (years)	Domestic Violence (conditions)
Illinois	T 12 years	T 1 year		T	T	T 60 years	Domestic violence is not technically good cause, but services can replace other activities.
Indiana	T 12 years	T 6 years	T	T	T		
Kansas	T 12 years		T	T	T	T 60 years	
Kentucky	T 5 years		T		T		
Louisiana	T 5 years		T	T	T	T 60 years	T
Massachusetts	T 12 years						
Maryland	T 6 years		T				T
Maine	T 12 years		T	T	T		Inability to participate due to domestic violence including physical injuries or the psychological effects of abuse; legal proceedings or other activities related to abuse; the abuser actively interferes with the individual's participation; the location puts the individual at risk; or for other good cause related to domestic abuse
Michigan	T 6 years	T 3 months	T	T	T		T

Good Cause reasons for noncompliance with work requirements ²							
State	Child Care unavailable (up to age) ³	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disability/ Incapacity	Temporary disability/ Incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced Age (years)	Domestic Violence (conditions)
Minnesota	T 12 years		T	T	T	T 60 years	
Missouri	T 5 years	T 6 years	T	T	T	T 60 years	T
Mississippi	T 5 years	T 1 year	T	T	T	T 60 years	T
Montana	T 12 years		T	T	T		
North Carolina	T 5 years			T	T		
North Dakota	T 5 years		T	T	T	T 60 years	T
Nebraska	T 5 years	T 12 weeks	T	T	T	T 60 years	
New Hampshire	T 12 years	T 2 years	T	T	T	T 60 years	T
New Jersey	T 12 years		T	T	T		
New Mexico	T 5 years	T 1 year	T	T	T	T	Demonstrates by reliable medical or psychological reports, court orders, or police reports that the threat of, or actual family violence effectively bars the individual from employment
Nevada							

Good Cause reasons for noncompliance with work requirements ²							
State	Child Care unavailable (up to age) ³	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disability/ Incapacity	Temporary disability/ Incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced Age (years)	Domestic Violence (conditions)
New York	T 12 years						
Ohio	T 5 years						
Oklahoma	T 5 years		T	T	T		
Oregon	T 12 years			T	T		T Employment program participation increases safety risk to client or the children
Pennsylvania	T 12 years	T 1 year	T	T	T		T
Rhode Island	T 13 years		T	T	T		
South Carolina	T 13 years		T				
South Dakota	T 5 years		T	T	T		
Tennessee	T 12 years	T 4 months	T	T	T	T 60 years	T In a shelter or participation presents a danger to the family
Texas	T	T 3 years	T	T	T	T 60 years	T
Utah							
Virginia	T	T 1 year		T			T

Good Cause reasons for noncompliance with work requirements ²							
State	Child Care unavailable (up to age) ³	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disability/ Incapacity	Temporary disability/ Incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced Age (years)	Domestic Violence (conditions)
Vermont	T 12 years	T	T	T	T	T 60 years	Sworn affidavit and documentation and review every six months are required
Washington	T 12 years	T 1 year	T	T	T		T
Wisconsin	T 12 years						
West Virginia	T 5 years		T	T	T	T 60 years	T
Wyoming		T 3 months	T			T	

1. This report is divided into two parts. Part 2 contains the additional good cause reasons included in the SPDP survey.
2. Generally, a basis for a work exemption is also a basis for good cause for noncompliance. In the SPDP survey, some states listed as good cause reasons the state's work exemptions, plus some additional reasons associated with temporarily missing work or other work activities (such as a family emergency or court appearance).
3. Federal law prohibits states from sanctioning recipients who do not comply because they are unable to obtain child care for a young child (under age six).
4. In Colorado, no boxes are checked because good cause for noncompliance is determined at the county level.