



Child Support and Medical Support Rules and FAQs

Will you send facts about my case to the child support office?

Yes, if:

- a child on your case gets TANF cash help; or
- an adult like a parent, step-parent, sibling, step-sibling, grandparent, uncle or aunt on your case gets TANF or Medicaid and they care for a child who:
 - Lives with them
 - Is 17 or younger or is 18 years old and going to school full time.

What are the rules when at least one parent doesn't live with the child?

If the adult who takes care of the child gets TANF or Medicaid, they must:

- Give facts about any parent not living with the child.
- Help find any parent not living with the child.
- Help find out if a person is a legal parent.
- Go to court hearings or other meetings about child support and medical support.
- Tell the state about any payments they get from the parent not living with the child.

If the adult caring for the child gets TANF, that parent also must give (assign) child and medical support payments to the state of Texas. The state will keep only the amount allowed by law.

If the child gets Medicaid, but the adult caring for the child doesn't get Medicaid, that adult can choose to:

- Ask the state to help get any child or medical payments and coverage they should get, but don't get right now.
- Apply for child support services by going to www.TexasAttorneyGeneral.gov and clicking "child support."

The state will try to find out if the child should get child support payments and help get the payments if the child got TANF in the past and child support or medical support money is still owed to the state. If not, the state will not try to find this out.

If I work with the state, what type of help will I get?

The state will help with:

- Finding a child's parent.
- Finding out if a person is a legal parent.
- Getting child support payments.
- Getting medical support payments.
- Finding out if the child can get some of the parent's benefits. For example, social security, military, veteran's benefits, health coverage, life insurance and inheritance).

What if I can't give the facts about a parent?

If you aren't able to give us all the facts we need about a parent, you will need to show proof that you have a good reason (known as "good cause") to not give those facts.

[Reasons you might not be able to give facts about a parent and the type of proof we need.](#)

- The child was born because of rape or incest.
 - Proof: Birth certificates, medical records or legal records.
- The child is in the process of being adopted or is adopted.
 - Proof: Court files or a written statement from the social services agency.
- You're afraid that giving us facts about someone could put you and the child in danger (physical emotional harm).
 - Proof: A "Family Violence Exemption" from a family violence center.

What happens after HHSC finds out I have a good reason to not give all the facts about a parent?

- HHSC will not contact that parent without checking with you first.
- Your TANF and Medicaid benefits will not change.
- The state won't try to find that parent or confirm if a person is a legal parent (establish paternity).
- The state will not try to collect child or medical support.

What happens if I: (1) don't have a good reason for not giving facts about a parent or (2) don't work with the state on getting facts about a parent?

- You won't be able to get TANF.
- You won't be able to get Medicaid.
- The child will still get Medicaid (if other program rules are met).

What happens if I'm afraid that giving facts about a child's parent might put me or the child in danger?

- We will connect you with the family violence program.
- If you tell us you are afraid of being hurt, we will not tell anyone without talking to you first, unless you are a child.
- If you are a child or tell us someone is hurting a child, we must tell the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

If you have questions about your safety or a child's safety, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline anytime toll-free at 800-799-SAFE (7233).

Who do I call if I have questions or need help with this form?

Call 2-1-1 or 877-541-7905 (after you pick a language, press 2).