**Policy Clarification**

**Cash Assistance - TANF**

**PCT-19193-150**

**Submitted: 1/18/2019 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: Child Support and TANF Eligibility**

**Question:**

How does child support income affect eligibility for TANF in an “ongoing” case?

Example 1:

A mother and two children receive TANF in Allegheny County (3-person FSA is $403). The only income is court-ordered child support and an Alert 038 prompts a review of eligibility. The review determines that there is a court order for support from one of the absent relatives which occurred after the TANF was initially authorized. The ordered amount is $364.28 monthly plus $40 monthly arrears. The absent relative has been paying $404.28 once per month for the past several months and the income is paid directly to DHS with a $200 monthly support pass-thru (SPT) being issued to the client. Is this budget group still eligible for TANF?

Example 2:

A mother and two children receive TANF in Allegheny County (3-person FSA is $403). The only income is court-ordered child support and an Alert 038 prompts a review of eligibility. The review determines that there is a court order for support from one of the absent relatives which occurred after the TANF was initially authorized. The ordered amount is $464.28 monthly plus $40 monthly arrears. The absent relative has been paying $504.28 once per month for the past several months and the income is paid directly to DHS with a $200 monthly SPT being issued to the client. Is this budget group still eligible for TANF?

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| **Response By: Division of Family Assistance** | **Date: 1/18/2019** |

Yes, both households in the examples above remain eligible for TANF.

In both examples the CAO will count the amount of support that is assigned to and collected by DHS minus the support pass thru and compare the final amount to the FSA, resulting in continuing TANF eligibility.

Follow guidance found in CAH 150.31 and CAH 150.5 (item 30). The CAO will continue to disregard the support pass-through when making the ongoing eligibility determination.

Note:

If the child support payment minus the support pass-through is more than the FSA, the CAO should discuss with the client voluntarily withdrawing and receiving the full child support payment which would benefit the household and save their TANF time as this is limited to 5 years.  Also, the worker can remind the client if any changes occur, they always have the option of reapplying.