**Revised - Policy Clarification**

**Cash Assistance - TANF**

**PCT-19193-150**

**Submitted: September 14, 2023 Agency: CAOs**

 **January 18, 2019**

**Subject: Revised Child Support and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (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 (three-person Family Size Allowance (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 the Department of Human Services (DHS) with a $200 monthly Support Pass-Through (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 (three-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: January 18, 2019** |

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

A family may continue to receive TANF when the only income is monthly child support that is less than the FSA plus the SPT amount. For example: A parent with two children may have monthly child support up to $603 (FSA of $403 plus $200 SPT).

In both examples the County Assistance Office (CAO) will count the amount of support that is assigned to and collected by DHS minus the SPT 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 SPT 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.~~

The CAO will receive alert SPT 38 when the previous support month exceeds the monthly grant. The CAO should review the support payments. If the support income, minus the SPT, is recurring and results in ineligibility that is expected to last more than one month when counted for eligibility, the CAO will take action to discontinue the assistance payment for the first payment day that can be met after proper notice. The legal reason for closing the case is the actual support collected. Case closing is appropriate if there is a basis to determine that support collections will remain consistent and make the family ineligible.

CAO employees can utilize the PACSES Child Support Co-Browsing link found in**[MyDHS/OIM/Links](http://mydhs/oim/links/index.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).**