

## **Work First Sanction Revisions**

Effective January 2005 Work First sanctions will change due to changes in the TANF State Plan. The new sanctions are described below:

### **Child Support Sanctions-**

If you are a parent or an adult taking care of your relative's child and if you are receiving a Work First check, you must cooperate with Child Support Enforcement. If you do not cooperate you will not get a Work First Check for your family for one month or until you cooperate with Child Support Enforcement, whichever is longer. Your children will continue to get Medicaid, but you will not get Medicaid until you cooperate with Child Support. If you are a pregnant parent, you can apply for Medicaid for yourself.

### **Mutual Responsibility Agreement Sanctions-**

If you are a parent or adult taking care of your relative's child and if you are receiving a Work First check, you and your worker will develop a Mutual Responsibility Agreement that will say what you must do to continue to get your Work First check. If you do not do what is in your Mutual Responsibility Agreement without a good reason, you will not get a Work First Check for your whole family for one month or until you do what you are supposed to do in your Mutual Responsibility Agreement, whichever is longer. You and your family will continue to get Medicaid as usual.

### **Substance Abuse Treatment Sanctions-**

If you have had an assessment for substance abuse and have been told by your worker that you need to go to substance abuse treatment, you must do that. If you do not go to substance abuse treatment without a good reason, or if you do not follow your substance abuse treatment plan without good reason, you will no longer be eligible for Work First cash assistance until you do so. Your family's Work First check will be lowered and will be sent to another person who will be called a protective payee. You will have to work with your protective payee to get your money. You will still have your work requirements and your time clock will still count.

### **Pay-After-Performance Sanctions-**

There will be no more Pay-After-Performance as a sanction. This sanction meant the family had to do what they were supposed to do before they got a Work First check for their family. Now, if you do not do what you are supposed to do, your whole family will not receive a check for one month or until you do what you are supposed to do, whichever is longer. Your family will still get Medicaid. Some families with two parents in the house will continue to be in Pay After Performance, but this is no longer called a sanction. Those two parent families will still have to perform their work hours in order to get a check.

If you have any questions, please contact your local county Department of Social Services.