



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

2407 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

November 23, 2004

Dear County Director of Social Services

Attention: Work First Supervisors

**Subject: Notification of December 2004
Work First Check Insert**

Work First recipients will receive check inserts with their December 2004 Work First checks. The insert informs families of the new sanction policies that were part of the TANF State Plan that was effective on October 1, 2003. A Change Notice for the Work First Manual #6-2004 with the manual section changes was sent out on November 22, 2004. The English text of this bilingual insert is attached.

If you have any questions about the insert, please contact your Work First Representative.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Lamm".

Jo Ann Lamm, Chief
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

Attachment

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Wilbert Morris
Sarah Barham
FSCWSS Team Leaders
Jane Schwartz
Robin Register
Work First Representatives

FSCWSS #47-04

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-

When a parent or other adult caretaker fails, without good cause, to cooperate with Child Support Enforcement, the entire family will be ineligible for a Work First Family Assistance (WFFA) payment for one month or until compliance, whichever is greater. The children will remain eligible for Medicaid; however the adult will no longer receive Medicaid until compliance with Child Support. If the adult is pregnant, she may apply for Medicaid under the MPW program.

Mutual Responsibility Agreement Sanctions-

When a parent or other adult caretaker fails to comply, without good cause, with the requirements of their Mutual Responsibility Agreement, other than child support and substance abuse requirements, the entire case will be ineligible for a WFFA payment for one month or until compliance, whichever is greater. The family remains eligible for Medicaid.

Note: Work First cases that include one adult and are in sanction status as of December 31, 2004, will continue in the current sanction. These cases will continue to receive their reduced payment amount until the sanction status ends or the case transfers to Medicaid after 3 months of no check being issued. Any subsequent sanction will follow the changes listed above.

If you have any questions, please contact your County Department of Social Services office.