



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

Economic Independence Section • 325 North Salisbury Street
2420 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

July 16, 2002

**Re: Clarification of Work First Sanctions for
Non-cooperation with Child Support
Enforcement**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: Work First Supervisors

Effective April 1, 2002, Work First policy (Change Notice 10-2002) changed the way cases are sanctioned for failure to cooperate with Child Support Enforcement. Previously, there had been no distinction between the first child support sanction and second or subsequent child support sanctions.

Under the new policy, a sanction for second or subsequent failure to cooperate results in the case being put into pay-after-performance status in addition to a 50 percent payment reduction.

There has been some confusion about how to determine whether to apply a first sanction or to apply a second or subsequent sanction. When you apply a new child support sanction to a case, if the parent/caretaker has ever been sanctioned for failure to cooperate with child support, impose a second or subsequent sanction (50 percent payment reduction plus pay-after-performance). Apply the second sanction regardless of how much time has passed since the first sanction. For example, even if the first sanction was imposed prior to the April 1, 2002 policy change, it still causes the next sanction to be a second sanction.

If, at review, you are converting a sanction that was in effect when the policy changed, and the existing sanction is the first sanction, convert it to the new first sanction (50 percent payment reduction for three months). If it is a second or subsequent sanction, convert it to a second or subsequent sanction (50% payment reduction and pay-after-performance).

Remember that non-cooperation with child support is determined by the child support agency.

Please contact your Work First Representative if you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter.

Sincerely,

Wilbert R. Morris, Chief
Economic Independence Section

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