

MEPD and TW Bulletin 26-08

Date: April 13, 2026

To: State and Regional Operations Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Policy Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2106

Subject: **1. Self-Attestation for Family Violence Good Cause**
2. Updates to the Absent Parent LUW
3. Updates to the Tax Status LUW
4. ABAWD Functionality Enhancements

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/medicaid-elderly-people-disabilities-handbook) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/medicaid-elderly-people-disabilities-handbook>;
- [Texas Works Handbook](https://hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/twh-policy-bulletins) (TWH) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/twh-policy-bulletins>.

1. Self-Attestation for Family Violence Good Cause

Background

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) offers a family violence good cause exemption for people who may face safety risks when meeting child and medical support requirements. To reduce barriers, HHSC allows people to self-attest to claim this exemption, as permitted by federal regulations, eliminating the need for third-party verification.

Current Policy

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) and Medicaid for Parents and Caretaker Relatives \(TP 08\)](#)

At each application and redetermination, staff must explain and offer the family violence good cause option by:

- Explaining and providing Form H1712, Explanation of Child/Medical Support, Family Violence and Good Cause;
- Reviewing Part I of Form H1713, Service Plan for Family Violence Option and Report of Good Cause, with the person; and
- If good cause is claimed due to family violence, complete Part II of Form H1713 to refer the person to a family violence specialist. Only a specialist may recommend good cause.

When good cause is claimed due to family violence:

- The person contacts the referred family violence specialist to request a good cause recommendation.
 - If good cause is recommended, the specialist completes Form H1706, Good Cause Recommendation and Family Violence Exemption, and returns it to the person or HHSC as verification.
- For face-to-face interviews at a local HHSC office, provide a confidential phone interview with a family violence specialist; Form H1706 is not required, and client statement may be used as verification.

[Redetermination](#)

After establishing a good cause claim, re-evaluate the claim at each redetermination. If the person is no longer claiming good cause, update the absent parent referral by removing the good cause indicator. This allows the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Child Support Division to help the family get child support or medical support services for their children. As long as the person continues to claim good cause, their good cause exemption remains in effect.

New Policy

[TANF and TP 08](#)

Staff must explain and offer the family violence good cause exemption to every household.

At application and redetermination:

1. Provide a copy of the [Explanation of Child Support, Eligibility Requirements, Family Violence and Good Cause FAQs](#) and [Form H1713, Acknowledgement of Family Violence Good Cause Option and Contact Resources](#).
2. Staff must explain and offer the family violence good cause exemption using the FAQ document as a resource.
3. Review Form H1713, Section 1 – Good Cause Acknowledgement, with the client.
4. Use the “Search Shelter” feature in the **Absent Parent LUW** to complete Section 2 of the Form H1713.
5. Continue processing the EDG. Collect absent parent information verbally or pend for [Form H0050, Parent Profile Questionnaire](#) if needed.

Note: The FAQs can be found in the Texas Works Handbook under [TWH Documents and Notices](#).

Verification Requirements

Staff must verify all good cause claims. The following verification sources are acceptable for good cause due to family violence.

[TANF](#)

- Form H1713

Note: The person claiming good cause must sign the H1713 at application and at each redetermination.

[TP 08](#)

- Form H1713 or
- Self-attestation

Self-attestation — A person’s verbal statement that information is true, made with the understanding that providing false information may result in penalties. The statement may be given to eligibility staff, including by calling 2-1-1.

Redetermination

Once a good cause claim has been established, staff must review the claim at each redetermination.

- If the person no longer claims good cause, remove the good cause indicator in TIERS so the OAG can help them with getting child or medical support services.
- If the person continues to claim good cause, continue the good cause exemption, as long as the person meets the program's verification requirements.

Note: Good cause policies related to adoptions, rape or incest have not changed, [TWH 1131.2 Good Cause Related to Adoptions, Rape or Incest](#)

Automation

Changes to TIERS and YourTexasBenefits.com were implemented with TIERS Release 122.1 on April 11, 2026.

Correspondence

Changes to the following forms take effect upon implementation.

Form H1712, Explanation of Child, Medical Support, Family Violence and Good Cause, has been reclassified as a document titled [Explanation of Child Support Eligibility Requirements Family Violence and Good Cause FAQs](#). The document is stored in [TWH Documents and Notices](#).

Note: In TIERS, the FAQ document is indexed as Form H1712.

Form H1713, Service Plan for Family Violence Option and Report of Good Cause, has been updated and renamed [Form H1713, Acknowledgement of Family Violence Good Cause Option and Contact Resources](#).

The following application forms have been updated to include new family violence questions under the Absent Parent and Tax Status sections.

- H1010, Texas Works Application for Assistance
- H1010 MR, MAGI Renewal Addendum
- H1010-R, Your Texas Works Benefits – Renewal Form
- H1205, Texas Streamlined Application
- H1206, Health-Care Benefits Renewal
- H2020, Self Service Portal Application

The following forms have been retired:

- H1071, Family Violence Exemption for Medicaid and CHIP
- H1706, Good Cause Recommendation and Family Violence Exemption

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2026 revision.

Training

Training is available in PALMS titled Release 122.1 General Information released April 02, 2026.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 122.1 on April 11, 2026.

2. Updates to the Absent Parent LUW

A new family violence screening question has been added to all applications and redeterminations:

“Are you afraid that giving facts about the child’s other parent might put you or your child in danger?”

This question corresponds to the **Absent Parent Good Cause – Details LUW**.

Absent Parent Information	
Name: [REDACTED]	
Dates	
Effective Begin Date:	03 / 01 / 2026
Date Good Cause/Family Violence Explained:	03 / 01 / 2026
End Date: mm / dd / yyyy	
Good Cause Information	
☒ Individual claimed Family Violence/Good Cause for not providing information on absent parent?: YES	
Good Cause Reason:	Family Violence
Good Cause Verification:	
Good Cause Request Date:	
Good Cause Status:	Upheld
Verification Received On:	mm / dd / yyyy
Good Cause End Date:	mm / yyyy
Family Violence Search	Client Statement Form H1706 Form H1713

When the **Good Cause Status** is “Upheld,” only Form H1713 or client statement can be selected as the verification source. If the status is “Not Verified” TIERS will issue Form H1020 along with Form H1713 and the Good Cause FAQs.

If Form H1706 is selected as the current verification source, a system alert displays.

DC3678:Form H1706 is not a valid option. Please select a valid value for the 'Good Cause Verification' field.

Note: If a case was pended for Form H1706 prior to implementation, Form H1713 can be used as the verification source in TIERS and must be documented in the **Case Action Documentation Summary** (CADS).

Use the **Search shelter** lookup button to add a family violence shelter to Section 2 of the Form H1713. This shelter information may also be provided verbally to the client.

Family Violence Search Criteria	
Search shelter: 	
Name: SAFE Alliance, The	City: Austin
Phone: 512 267 7233	State: Texas
Website: https://www.safeaustin.org/	
  Reset Cancel Add Previous Next	

Automation

Changes to TIERS and YourTexasBenefits.com were implemented with TIERS Release 122.1 on April 11, 2026.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2026 revision.

Training

Training is available in PALMS titled Release 122.1 General Information released April 02, 2026.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 122.1 on April 11, 2026.

3. Updates to the Tax Status LUW

Background

Some people may be afraid to share information about others in their Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) household because it could put them at risk of physical or emotional harm.

Current Policy

[Medicaid and CHIP](#)

When an individual wants to pursue the family violence exemption:

Eligibility staff begin the referral process by sending Form H1020, Request for Information or Action, along with Form H1071, Family Violence Exemption for Medicaid and CHIP, which explains how to claim the exemption and provides contact information for the nearest family violence shelter.

- Eligibility staff follow the process in Contingency Processing Method (CPM) 601002, Family Violence Exemption with Unidentified Offender.

The family violence specialist completes Form H1706, Good Cause Recommendation and Family Violence Exemption, if recommending the exemption.

If the individual withdraws the request for the family violence exemption, the individual must still provide the originally requested information by the due date, or the pending MAGI eligibility determination group (EDG) is denied.

New Policy

[Medicaid and CHIP](#)

A new family violence question has been added to the tax return section of all applications and redeterminations:

“Are you afraid that giving facts about this person might put you or your children in danger?”

This question corresponds to the **Tax Status LUW** in TIERS.

Dates				
Effective Begin Date:		End Date:		
Name	Tax Status	Joint Filer	Tax Dependent	Claimed By
	Taxpayer Filing Jointly and Tax Dependent	☐ Not on Case ☒ Family Violence Good Cause requested	☐ Not on Case ☒ Family Violence Good Cause requested	☐ Not on Case ☒ Family Violence Good Cause requested

The Family Violence Good Cause Requested checkbox is displayed in the Joint Filer and Claimed By columns and is only enabled when the tax status is Taxpayer Filing Jointly or Taxpayer Filing Jointly and Tax Dependent.

Note: Medicaid EDGs will not pend for the **Joint Filer** or **Claimed By** person when selected.

Process

1. Review the application or renewal.

- Review the tax filing section and the person's answer to the question, **"Are you afraid that giving facts about this person might put you or your children in danger?"**
- If the person answers **"Yes,"** staff must consider whether the family violence good cause exemption applies.

2. Contact the client to confirm the request and explain good cause.

- Attempt to contact the person and follow the established process to explain the family violence good cause exemption and confirm whether they wish to request the exemption.

3. Pend if contact is unsuccessful.

- If the person can't be reached through a cold call, pend applicable EDGs by selecting **"Not on Case,"** and document the attempt in the **CADS**.

4. Process verified good cause requests.

- When the person verifies the good cause request through self-attestation or by returning Form H1713, select "Family Violence Good Cause Requested".
- Document the verification used to determine the exemption in CADs.

Note: Selecting "Family Violence Good Cause Requested" excludes the required MAGI household member from the budget. [TWH A-240, Medical Programs](#).

5. Withdrawals and denials

- If the person withdraws the request for the family violence good cause exemption, they must provide the originally requested information by the due date.
- If the person does not provide the required information by the due date, including either verification of the good cause exemption or the required household member information, staff must deny any pending MAGI EDGs for failure to provide required information.

Duration of the Exemption

After establishing a good cause claim, re-evaluate the claim at each redetermination. The exemption remains in place until:

- The person indicates they no longer want the exemption; or
- Until there is a break in eligibility for all MAGI EDGs on the case.
 - If there is a break in eligibility and the person wants the exemption again, staff must restart the exemption process described above.

Automation

Changes to TIERS and YourTexasBenefits.com were implemented with TIERS Release 122.1 on April 11, 2026.

Contingency Processing Method

CPM 601002, Family Violence Exemption with Unidentified Offender will be retired.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2026 revision.

Training

Training is available in PALMS titled Release 122.1 General Information released April 02, 2026.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 122.1 on April 11, 2026.

4. ABAWD Functionality Enhancements

Background

On July 4, 2025, House Resolution (H.R.) 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (P.L. 119-21) was signed into law. The law contains several provisions that affect SNAP work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) by modifying the age range criteria, removing existing exception reasons, and adding a new exception from SNAP federal time limits to include anyone who is “an Indian”, “Urban Indian” and “California Indian” as defined in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 U.S.C. Chapter 18.

Current Policy

SNAP

SNAP has two sets of work requirements: (1) the Basic SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Work Rules, and (2) the ABAWD Federal Time Limit (FTL) Rules.

Basic SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Work Rules

Unless exempt, SNAP recipients ages 16 to 59 must follow the basic work rules to get SNAP benefits. These rules include:

- Replying to any letters and fulfilling any requests from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) about SNAP E&T.
- Taking a suitable job if offered.
- Not voluntarily quitting a job or lowering work hours below 30 hours a week.

SNAP recipients who do not follow the Basic SNAP E&T Work Rules receive a sanction ranging from one to six months or whenever they cooperate, whichever is longer. (TWH [A-1800](#), Employment Services)

ABAWD Federal Time Limit (FTL) Rules

ABAWDs are subject to a FTL unless they meet exception criteria. The ABAWD FTL counts any non-prorated month an ABAWD receives SNAP benefits, does not meet an exception, and does not meet the work requirement. The ABAWD FTL initially limits ABAWDs to three countable months in a 36-month period.

(TWH [A-1900](#), Federal Time Limits)

Work Registration Codes

HHSC eligibility staff and TWC staff use separate case management information systems. These systems communicate information through an automated nightly and monthly interface.

- TWC staff use WorkInTexas (WIT) to outreach SNAP participants and provide information about good cause and non-compliance with SNAP work rules.

- HHSC eligibility staff use the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) to determine whether sanctions should be imposed based on SNAP E&T non-compliance and provide information about a SNAP participant's work registration status.

When a SNAP participant is exempt from E&T, the following work registration codes are transmitted through the HHSC/TWC interface.

- Code A, Child under 16, 16 or 17 and not head of household, or 16 or 17 and attends school or training at least half time;
- Code E, Physically or mentally unfit for employment;
- Code F, 60 or older;
- Code G, Caring for a child under 6;
- Code H, Cares for a person with a disability who is living in the home;
- Code J, In drug and alcohol treatment program;
- Code N, Receiving or applying for unemployment benefits;
- Code P, Meets SNAP full-time employment requirement;
- Code Q, Registered with Choices;
- Code S, Student 18 or older in school or a training program at least half time;
- Code T, Disqualified Household Member; and
- Code U, Primary Wage Earner failed to comply with E&T services. (TWH [A-1822.1](#), SNAP Work Requirement Exemptions)

Non-E&T counties are counties in which TWC determines it does not have enough offices to assist individuals who are mandatory work registrants. SNAP participants in these counties are still subject to Basic Work Rule requirements with HHSC, but are exempt from E&T participation, and not subject to SNAP FTLs. No code is transmitted through the HHSC/TWC interface for people who are not required to comply with SNAP E&T requirements because they live in a Non-E&T county (TWH [Glossary N](#), Non-E&T Counties and TWH [C-341](#), SNAP Non-Employment and Training Counties).

SNAP Verbal Informing

When a person becomes subject to SNAP work rules at certification, recertification, or change action, staff must verbally share comprehensive information about SNAP work rules during interview or by making one cold-call attempt. Document in the Case Action Documentation Summary (CADS):

- The time the call was made;
- If the call was successful or unsuccessful;
- If successful and a verbal explanation was provided;

- which requirement was explained; and
- the household members required to comply with the SNAP work rules.

If the phone contact is unsuccessful, do not leave the information by voicemail.

New Policy

SNAP

The following updates will be made to the existing list of work registration codes transmitted through the HHSC/TWC interface.

Work Registration Code Updates

Code F, 65 years of age or older

The Code F work registration code will be updated from “60 or older” to “65 years of age or older.” SNAP participants with the updated Code F are exempt from E&T and ABAWD FTLs.

Code I, 60 through 64

The new work registration code, Code I identifies SNAP participants age “60 through 64.” SNAP participants with Code I are exempt from E&T but are subject to ABAWD Federal Time Limits. This code will only be granted if the participant is not eligible for any other E&T exemptions.

Code O, Resides in a Non-E&T County (Good Cause)

The new work registration code, Code O identifies SNAP participants who reside in a Non-E&T county, meet no E&T exemptions, and are granted good cause from SNAP E&T due to a lack of available services in the area they reside. In addition to having good cause from SNAP E&T, all SNAP participants in these households are not required to follow ABAWD FTL Rules. Do not send a Consolidated Work Notice or provide an oral explanation to SNAP participants who reside in a Non-E&T county.

Summary of New Work Registration Codes

New Work Registration Code	Basic SNAP E&T Work Rules	ABAWD Work Rules
Code F, 65 years of age or older	Exempt	Exempt
Code I, 60 through 64	Exempt	Must follow, unless otherwise exempt
Code O, Resides in a Non-E&T County (Good Cause)	Good Cause Granted, not required to follow	Exempt

SNAP Verbal Informing Logical Unit of Work

When a person becomes subject to SNAP work rules at certification, recertification, or change action, staff must verbally share comprehensive information about SNAP work rules during interview or by making one cold-call attempt. Document in the new SNAP Verbal Informing LUW:

- The time the call was made;
- If the call was successful or unsuccessful;
- If successful and a verbal explanation was provided;
 - which requirement was explained; and
- the household members required to comply with the SNAP work rules.

If the phone contact is unsuccessful, do not leave the information by voicemail. Document in the new SNAP Verbal Informing LUW that the call was unsuccessful and the date and time the unsuccessful cold call was attempted.

Both the starter and finisher are responsible for ensuring that adequate documentation exists to show that the SNAP verbal informing script was shared or an unsuccessful cold call attempt was made. For example, if the starter fails to document that verbal informing was provided, as required by the case action, then the finisher must complete and document the results of verbal informing. However, if the starter documents that verbal informing was provided, as required by the case action, then the finisher does not document that verbal informing was provided.

Note: In any instance that staff are unable to complete SNAP verbal informing documentation requirements through the new SNAP verbal informing LUW, ensure TIERS case comments contain the required documentation elements listed above.

Automation

Changes to update work registration codes are currently scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release 122.1 on April 11, 2026. Work registration code update to:

- Codes F and I will occur whenever EDBC is run after deployment; and
- Code O will occur through a one-time mass update for all people who reside in a Non-E&T county.

Correspondence

Changes to prevent the Consolidated Work Notice from being sent to households who live in a Non-E&T County will be implemented with TIERS Release 122.3, on June 20, 2026.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2026 revision.

Training

Training was made available in PALMS titled *ABAWD Exceptions and Age Limit Changes* on April 11, 2026.

Effective Date

The policy to stop providing SNAP Verbal Informing and the Consolidated Work Notice to people residing in a Non-E&T county is effective for all case actions disposed on or after the implementation of TIERS Release 122.3, currently scheduled for June 20, 2026.

All other policies in this bulletin are effective for case actions disposed on or after the implementation of TIERS Release 122.1, currently scheduled for April 11, 2026.