J. Minor Parents

Expectations:

- A safe and supportive living situation is critical to the well-being of any individual, particularly minor parents and their child;
- Minor parents learn to cope and function better when there is extended family support and parental/adult guidance;
- A safe and secure home environment provides a better opportunity for the minor parents to become successful and self-reliant;
- Attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent contributes to economic success and better functioning in the world of work.

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<th>Case Management Opportunity</th>
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<td>Discuss with the minor parent and their parents/relatives/guardians if they are interested in family, if they request information work with the family to help locate resources.</td>
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1. Definitions

Who is a Minor Parent? A minor parent is any parent under the age of 18.

Who is a Minor Parent Head of Household? A minor parent head of household is an individual applying for themselves and their child.

Who is a Major Parent? A major parent is a parent in the same household with their minor parent child.

Who is a Teen Parent? A teen parent is a parent 19 and younger who does not have their high school diploma or equivalent.

2. Eligibility

A minor parent filing for TANF benefits cannot be both a dependent child and a caretaker for their own child. If they are considered a dependent child, they must file for benefits with their parent or caretaker relative (see examples in TANF, Chapter C).
Minor Parents and Teen Parents need to meet all TANF eligibility requirements to be eligible for TANF:

- Household Group;

**Example 1:** Maria (17) and Tom (18) are parents to Darius and all three are living with Maria’s mother Janice. The household group consists of all people residing in the same home.

- Filing Group;

**Example 2:** Our filing group will consist of all in the household. Janice, Maria, Tom and Darius. The reason that they are all in the filing group is due to their relationship to each other. Janice is a parent to Maria and Maria is a dependent child (until she turns 18); Maria and Tom are caretaker relatives to Darius.

- Financial Group;

**Example 3:** The financial group will consist of all in the filing group. Tom is the only one working right now and since he is in the financial group, we will need to look at his income of $427.85 a month.

SEE TANF FINANCIAL AND BUDGETING CHAPTERS (**TF-G & TF-H**).

- Nonfinancial requirements;

**Example 4:** For the purpose of our scenario, the filing group meets all nonfinancial requirements for TANF.

SEE TANF NONFINANCIAL CHAPTER (**TF-D**).

- Benefit and Need Group;

**Example 5:** Once TANF eligibility has cleared for our family, worker will need to code the UCMS case appropriately. Janice is coded AD along with Tom. Maria and Darius are coded CH. Ensure the proper parent coding is attached to the children and EML will be coded under Tom.
Janice, Maria and Tom are all caretaker relatives. They are all JOBS-eligible (unless an exemption has been determined).

### Definitions for Chapter 461 Rule

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<tr>
<td>461-001-0000</td>
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### Household Group Rule

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### Filing Group; TANF Rule

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<td>461-110-0330</td>
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### Financial Group Rule

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<td>461-110-0530</td>
<td>Financial Group</td>
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- **Minor parent living with a parent or other legal adult**

  *Minor parents* are not eligible for benefits if they are not living with their parent(s), legal guardian or another adult relative. This is true unless the worker determines that it is unsafe or impractical for the *minor parent* to live with the aforementioned individual(s).

  A *minor parent* will be ineligible for benefits if they refuse to live with their parent(s), legal guardian or another adult relative when the worker determines that it is an appropriate option.

  If the worker determines that it is in the best interest of the *minor parents* to live on their own, the *minor parents* must attend high school or its equivalent full time, or participate in JOBS or other training programs to develop employment or self-sufficiency skills to qualify for benefits.

*Operational flexibility:* Sexual abuse or other physical or emotional abuse is grounds for the worker to waive the requirement that a *minor parent* live with their parents, legal guardian or other adult relative in order to receive benefits. The worker’s decision to waive that requirement may also be based on the unavailability of the parent(s), legal guardian or other adult relatives in providing the *minor parent’s* care, control and supervision.
This is true when they are not living in the same state, or when the minor parents have been living on their own for over 12 months before or since the birth of their last child.

**Example 6:** Katamari is a minor parent applying for TANF with her son, Yoshi. The worker asks Katamari why she is not living with her parents. Katamari states that she is unable to live with her mom, since her mom’s new boyfriend is a registered offender, her father has passed away and all relatives live out of state. The worker determines, due to the unsafe living situation, Katamari is safer residing on her own and is potentially eligible for TANF.

**Example 7:** Darla is 16 years old and in the office applying for TANF for herself and son Angel. During the interview, Darla states that she cannot live at her parent’s home. The worker asks Darla why she feels she cannot live at their home and Darla states that her parents will not listen to her. She is a mom and she needs to be treated like an adult. The worker determines, based on the interview, there is no good cause for Darla to not live at home. TANF is denied.

**Need Group Rule**

| 461-110-0630 — Need Group |

**Benefit Group Rule**

| 461-110-0750 — Benefit Group |

**TANF Eligibility for Minor Parents Rule**

| 461-135-0080 — TANF Eligibility for Minor Parents |

3. **Minor parents living with their major parents**

When a minor parent returns to live or lives with their parents, eligibility for the minor parent will be determined as follows:

- If the major parents are receiving benefits, the minor parent and their child will be added to the filing group. Thus, the minor parent will be treated as one of the dependent children in the family;

- If the major parents are not receiving benefits and do not want to apply for the minor parent, the parents’ income (this includes earned and unearned income) will be used to determine if the minor parents are eligible.
NOTE

If the minor parent has been married or legally emancipated, DHS does not deem the parent’s income.

Deem the parents’ income as follows:

- Allow the $90 earned income deduction;
- Deduct the needs of the parents and their dependents, living in the same household and not included in the benefit group, at the TANF payment standard;
- Deduct amounts paid to legal dependents not living in the household;
- Deduct payments of alimony or child support;
- Any remaining income is countable deemed income.

- Exclude the resources of the parents of the minor parent.

CAUTION

Requirements for verifying income and deductions for major parents apply when determining the deemed income for a minor parent living with a biological parent.

Example 8: Major mom earns $700.00 a month working. Three are five people in the household, including the minor parent and her child. The other people in the household are the major mom and her other two children. To deem, take the $700.00 - $90.00 (earned income deduction) = $610.00. Look at the standard chart to determine the payment standard for three. Take the income of $610.00 and subtract the $506.00, which equals $104.00. This is the amount by which we would reduce the minor parent’s TANF grant. The deemed income of $104.00 would be coded on the major mom need resource line. TANF grant for two will be ($432.00 – 104.00) $328.

Example 9: Marjorie needs TANF but her mom, Darlene, does not want or need TANF. The worker explains the deeming of major parent’s income and Darlene agrees this is fine. Darlene states that she has one other child besides Marjorie and her grandson, Phillip. Darlene turns in verification of her son Paul’s SSI income, verification of her monthly babysitting ($500.00) and child support for Marjorie ($150.00).
Code Deemed income as OTH on the minor parent.

Verification; General Rule

Deemed Assets, Parent of Minor Parent; TANF Rule

4. Minor parents living with their major parents; turn 18

When a minor parent turns 18 and they are on their major parent’s TANF case, the 18-year-old must be determined to be eligible for TANF separate from their major parent’s case. Minor parents are caretaker relatives and at age 18, they are no longer considered a dependent child. An application for TANF benefits must be filled out and eligibility will need to be determined along with their JOBS status.

Teens with no children who turn 18 are allowed to remain on their parent’s case as long as they continue to attend high school or equivalent at full-time hours per the school, until their 19th birthday. Once an individual is 19, they are no longer eligible as a dependent child, regardless of their educational status.

SEE TANF SECTION D (TF-D) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AGE REQUIREMENTS.

Definitions for Chapter 461 Rule

Paul’s SSI is excluded:
$500.00 monthly income – $90.00 = $410.00
$150.00 child support - $50.00 (dsp) = $100.00
Remaining Total of $510.00
The worker will remove the need of Darlene which is $339.00. $510.00 - $339.00 = $171.00. TANF for a family of two is $432.00 - $171.00 deemed income = $261.00. $261.00 will be Marjorie’s TANF amount.
5. **Participation, cooperation and exemption**

To receive a full TANF grant, JOBS-eligible participants must cooperate with the activities specified in their case plan.

Cooperation is encouraged through identification of goals, strengths, barriers and resources, development of plans with participants, sharing problem-solving responsibilities with the participant and by helping the individual see the need for change.

*Teen parents* that are 18 or 19 years old are still JOBS-eligible. *Teen parents* must participate in the *basic education component* if they have not obtained their high school diploma, GED or equivalent. *Teen parents* are JOBS-exempt from the requirement to participate in the basic education component if they have good cause.

A *minor parent* under age 18 is exempt from the requirement to participate in the *basic education component*, if the *minor parent* has been excused by the local school district from state compulsory school attendance and meets the following conditions:

a. The employment goal of the *minor parent* is an occupation or occupational field that does not require a high school diploma or GED, there is a labor market demand for it and the goal is appropriate for the participant and likely to lead to self-sufficiency; and

b. The *minor parent* is participating in the job skills training component and an education component designed to result in a literacy level of at least grade 8.9.

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**NOTE**

*Teen parents can be assigned to employment training to prepare for occupations or occupational fields for which there is a labor market demand, and either he or she has failed to achieve good or satisfactory progress in completing his or her educational activities or educational activities are inappropriate for his or her education and employment goals.*
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