

Errata to ACIN I-99-83

September 21, 1983

This transmits the second page of the CA 2.1 (8/83) Notice and Agreement which was inadvertently omitted from ACIN I-99-83 dated September 8, 1983.

# Your Right to Claim Good Cause

## The only reasons for claiming Good Cause are:

- Cooperation is expected to result in serious physical harm to the child(ren);
- Cooperation is expected to result in serious emotional harm to the child(ren);
- Cooperation is expected to result in physical harm to you which is so serious that it reduces your ability to care for the child(ren) adequately;
- Cooperation is expected to result in emotional harm to you which is so serious that it reduces your ability to care for the child(ren) adequately;
- The child(ren) were conceived due to incest or forcible rape;
- Court proceedings are going on for the adoption of the child(ren); or
- You are working with a social agency to help you decide whether to place the child(ren) for adoption and the counseling sessions have not gone on for more than three months.

## How to Claim Good Cause

If you want to claim Good Cause, you must tell your eligibility worker. You can do this whenever you believe you have Good Cause not to cooperate. You must also complete and sign the Good Cause claim form which your eligibility worker will give to you.

If you claim Good Cause you must:

- Give the county welfare department evidence needed to determine if you have Good Cause for refusing to cooperate. (If your reason for claiming Good Cause is your fear of physical harm and it is impossible to obtain evidence, the county welfare department may still be able to make a Good Cause determination after investigating your claim.)
- Give the necessary evidence within 20 days of claiming Good Cause. The county welfare department will only give you more time when it decides that more than 20 days are required to get the evidence.

## What is Acceptable Evidence?

The following are examples of acceptable evidence the county welfare department can use to determine if Good Cause exists. If you need help in getting a copy of any of the documents your eligibility worker will help you.

- Birth certificates, or medical or law enforcement records which indicate that the child was conceived due to forcible rape or incest;
- Court documents or other records which indicate that legal proceedings for adoption are pending in court;
- Records which indicate that the absent parent or alleged father might inflict physical or emotional harm on you or the child;
- Medical records which indicate your or your child(ren)'s emotional health history and present health status; or written statements from mental health professionals giving a diagnosis or prognosis on your or your child(ren)'s emotional health;
- A written statement from a social agency confirming that you are being helped to decide whether to place the child for adoption; and
- Sworn statements from people who know the circumstances of your Good Cause claim. These people could be friends, neighbors, clergymen, social workers and others.

## The County Welfare Department Decides Your Claim

The county welfare department will:

- Decide your claim based on the evidence you give, or
- Conduct an investigation to verify and decide your claim. (You may be required to give information such as the absent parent or alleged father's name and address. The county welfare department will not contact the absent parent or alleged father without first telling you.)

## District Attorney's Participation

The District Attorney may review the county welfare department's findings and the basis for a Good Cause determination in your case. If you request a hearing on the issue of Good Cause, the District Attorney may participate in that hearing.

If the county welfare department decides you have Good Cause for not cooperating, the District Attorney may try to establish paternity or collect support only if the county welfare department decides that this can be done without risk to you or your child(ren). This will not be done without first telling you.

The District Attorney will not pursue child support enforcement activities until the final determination regarding your Good Cause claim has been made by the county welfare department.