

# New CalWORKs Time Limit on Aid

As of July 1, 2011, California law will only allow adults to get 48 months of CalWORKs cash aid. (The old law allowed for 60 months.) The state will count all months of aid that you got *as an adult*, since January 1, 1998.

A month on aid will not count against your time limit if:

You met a **welfare-to-work exemption**

- Exemptions are: You were over 60 or under 18; you had a personal impairment that kept you from regularly working/doing welfare-to-work for your full hours; you cared for a disabled household member; you lived on Indian land with more than 50% unemployment, you were a *relative* (not a parent) caring for a child in/at risk of foster care who needed more care than regular parenting *and* that care limited your doing work/welfare-to-work; the county exempted you because they couldn't pay for needed support services; you cared for a young child (12-23 months) or two children under 6. If your county exempts you for caring for a child 24-35 months, that month also will not count.

You qualified for a **Domestic Violence time waiver**

- This can be for current *or past* abuse. You can get the time limit stopped now, *and for the past*. This waiver is for when holding you to the time limit would unfairly penalize you or make it more likely that you would stay with or return to the abuser.

Your **aid was repaid by child support**

- The state adds up the child support paid. When child support paid to the welfare department equals the amount you got for one month on aid, that aid will be considered "paid off." Months paid off this way are removed from your time limit. So, if \$3000 of child support was paid and your grant was \$500, six months would be added to your time clock.

If you **meet a time "extender"** you stay on aid after 48 months, or get back on after you've "timed out." You qualify for this if:

- All adults in the household get a form of disability benefits, and the condition significantly limits your ability to work/do welfare-to-work activities; the foster care and domestic violence reasons listed above, and if you *are unable to obtain or maintain employment*. (For this last reason, if you are already off aid, you would need to show that you have looked and can't find or keep a job.)

You will get a 30 day notice listing your time you've used, and how many months didn't count. **Ask for a hearing if you disagree. Get proof of any disability.**

**NEED HELP?** Call your local free legal services office:



# CalWORKs TIME LIMIT and WELFARE-TO-WORK PARTICIPATION EXEMPTION REQUEST FORM

PLEASE PRINT

YOUR NAME		COUNTY USE ONLY	
ADDRESS STREET		COUNTY	
CITY	ZIP	CASE NAME	
PHONE ( )		CASE NO.	OTHER ID NO.
<b>QUESTIONS? ASK YOUR WORKER.</b>		WORKER NAME	WORKER PHONE NO. ( )

Most adults can only receive 48 months (4 years) of cash aid from the CalWORKs program. Unless exempt, an individual is required to participate in CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work activities as a condition for receiving aid.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLIENT:

If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, you may be exempt for a month or longer from the CalWORKs 48-month time limit and Welfare-to-Work participation. You may need to give information to help the county decide if you should be exempt. Please answer all of the questions. Return the form to your worker. **The county cannot answer these questions for you. Please be sure to sign and date this form, below.**

- 1. Are/were you the caretaker of one child 12-23 months old, or two children under 6?
- 2. Are/were you the caretaker of one child 24-35 months old *after 7/1/11*. (County option: ask for your county's policy.)
- 3. Did the county tell you that they couldn't pay for the services you needed in order to do Welfare-to-work, and so you were not required to participate in the work program?
- 4. Are/were you physically or mentally unable to work or do Welfare-to-Work activities for 32 hours/week (one parent assistance unit) or 35 hours/week (two-parent assistance unit) on a regular basis for at least 30 calendar days? Please provide any medical proof of your disability.
- 5. Are you the nonparent caretaker of a child who is a dependent or ward of the court, or at risk of being placed in foster care?
- 6. Do you need to stay home to take care of someone in the household who cannot take care of him/herself, which makes it hard for you to work or do Welfare-to-Work activities?
- 7. Are/were you living on Indian land where 50 percent% of the adults are unemployed?
- 8. Are/have you been subject to violence in a family or intimate relationship? Would the time limit be an unfair penalty or make it more likely that you stay with or return to your abuser?
- 9. You had child support paid to the county, that should "pay off" a month or more of your aid.

### **YES NO CalWORKs Welfare-to-work Time Limit EXTENSION** (after 48 months of aid)

- 1. All adults in the household get a form of disability benefits for a condition that significantly limits the adult's ability to work/do welfare-to-work activities 32-35 hours a week
- 2. Care for child in/at risk of foster care (see #5 above)
- 3. Domestic Violence (See #8 above)
- 4. You are unable to obtain or maintain employment.

YOUR SIGNATURE

DATE