

SOLVING PROBLEMS



If you are about to finish high school or your GED and want more school, *enroll in college or training right away*. If you are not in school, you will be called into Welfare-to-work. If you are enrolled in school before your first appointment, you will get education as your assignment.

- Ask questions. Get explanations.
- Get denials in writing.
- If you are nervous or want support, bring a friend or an adult with you.
- If you are pregnant, get proof from a clinic or doctor.
- Apply for the pregnancy supplement (\$47).
- Ask to talk to the supervisor. If you are still denied, ask for a hearing.

To ask for a state hearing, fill out the back of any Notice of Action or call 800-952-5253.

Call Legal Services

Prepared by
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CalWORKs

Making it Work for You

Teens and Welfare

Getting Help for yourself...



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on Law & Poverty

YOUR RIGHTS

CAN I GET CALWORKS IF I'M PREGNANT?

- Yes, if you are a teen with no other children. You must not be aided on someone else's case and not yet have a diploma or GED. The aid starts when you verify you're pregnant.
- If you are a teen parent with a diploma, you only get CalWORKs if you are in your third trimester.



CAN I HAVE MY OWN WELFARE CASE?

- In most cases, no. Pregnant or parenting teens under 18 usually must live with a responsible adult, who will get the aid.
- **Exceptions:** You can get your own CalWORKs case if:
 - ✓ Your parents won't let you live at home.
 - ✓ A CPS worker says your or your child's physical or emotional safety would be in danger if you stayed with a responsible adult.
 - ✓ You lived apart from your parents at least 12 months before your baby was born,

- or before applying for CalWORKs.
- ✓ Your parents or guardians are dead, or you don't know where they are.
- ✓ You are married or emancipated.
- ✓ The adult refuses to receive the aid check for you.

WILL MY BABY GET AID? Maybe. CalWORKs has a rule that keeps children conceived and born while their parents are on welfare from getting aid. It is called the "Maximum Family Grant" (or "MFG") rule. **There are exceptions.**

- Some *examples* of when the MFG rule **doesn't** apply are:
 - ✓ The family didn't get written notice of the rule at least 10 months before the birth.
 - ✓ The child was born before June 2001 to a *teen parent*.
 - ✓ You got pregnant because of a failed IUD, Norplant or sterilization, **or** through rape or incest (reported either before or within three months after the birth).



If you are told your child is "MFG," ask for a hearing and have a legal advocate review your case. **There are other times the rules doesn't apply.**

- **The MFG rule ends** after your family has been off aid for 24 months, or when you are/were a *teen parent and you start getting your own aid.*

Do I Need To Do Welfare-to-Work?

No, as long as you are in school full-time, or you are pregnant or a teen parent getting a diploma or GED.



Do I Have Only 60-MONTHS OF CALWORKS?

Generally not. The 60-month clock doesn't run for:

- Teenagers who are not parents.
- Teen parents 18 and under until they earn a high school diploma or GED.
- 18 and 19 year old parents who volunteer to stay in CalLearn until graduation.

Can I get my own Medi-Cal?



- Yes. Apply for "Minor Consent Services." Your parents' income *won't* be counted. They won't be told about the application.
 - ✓ You can get treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, family planning, sexual assault, pregnancy and pregnancy-related needs.
- If you are 14 or older, don't live with your parents, and are self-supporting, apply for your own Medi-Cal case.