



Child Support Cooperation & Good Cause

To receive Wisconsin Works (W-2), Wisconsin Shares, Caretaker Supplement (CTS), BadgerCare Plus (BC+), or Medicaid, you are required by law to cooperate with the W-2, county or Child Support Agencies (Wis Stats. s. 49.145(2)(f)1; 49.463, 49.775; 42 CFR § 433.147) The eligibility of children and pregnant women for Medicaid is not affected if you do not cooperate.

Any parent in a W-2 or Wisconsin Shares household must cooperate to receive W-2 services or Wisconsin Shares child care subsidies. If you need help understanding this form, you may request help from your local W-2, county or tribal human/social services, or Child Support Agency.

Your safety is our priority. If you are worried for your safety, please tell your case worker and we can assist you. For immediate assistance, contact End Domestic Abuse WI: 608-255-0539

Your cooperation is important; it may help you and your children:

- Find the absent parent.
- Formally establish the identity of the absent parent.
- Establish rights to the absent parent's social security, veterans' benefits, pension, and inheritance.
- Receive child support and/or medical support payments to improve financial security.

Cooperating with child support may mean any of the following:

1. Provide the name of a parent of any child on your application for assistance, and information to help find that parent.
2. Help get money or property owed to you or your child(ren).
3. Attend required court hearings and agency appointments, including possible genetic testing. If you have safety concerns about attending hearings or appointments, please tell your case worker and they can help you.
4. Report court ordered child support paid directly to you by the absent parent to your worker or Child Support Agency.
5. Provide information to help the State pursue a third party who may be liable to pay for medical care and services.

What is Good Cause?

Good Cause means you have good reason for not cooperating with child support, such as safety concerns. If you want to claim Good Cause, tell your worker and you will receive a form. Let your worker know if you need help with the form.



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You may have good reason for not cooperating:

Below are situations where Good Cause may be granted:

1. Your cooperation could result in physical or emotional harm to you or your child.
2. Your cooperation with child support makes it more difficult for you to escape domestic abuse or puts you at risk of further domestic abuse.
3. Your child was born as a result of incest or sexual assault.
4. A petition for the adoption of your child has been filed with a court.
5. You are working with an agency to help you to decide if you will place your child up for adoption.

Your right to appeal a good cause decision:

If you are receiving W-2 services and do not agree with the agency's good cause claim decision, you can request a Fact Finding Review by writing your worker, or calling the agency, within 45 days of the decision date. A W-2 agency must accept phone requests and document the phone request using the [Request for W-2 Fact Finding Review form](#).

If you are receiving BC+, Medicaid, CTS or Wisconsin Shares, and you do not agree with the decision, you may request a Fair Hearing by writing to the Department of Administration, Division of Hearings and Appeals within 45 days of the decision date.

Send your request to:

Division of Hearings and Appeals
PO Box 7875
Madison, WI, 53707-7875

Representation may be available through legal advocacy organizations.

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Bureau of Working Families at (608) 535 - 3665. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.