

15.5 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENTS UNDER AGE 18 (WV WORKS)

There are special requirements for parents under the age of 18 **to be eligible for WV WORKS cash assistance. The individual who is not age 18, is not married, has a minor child at least 12 weeks of ages in his or her care, and has not successfully completed a high-school education (or its equivalent) must meet the following two requirements:**

- Remain in an **educational** activity to complete high school, obtain a GED or vocational training. See Chapter 9 for more details; **and**
- Live with parent(s) or in other adult-supervised living arrangement. See Chapter 9 for more details.

Failure to meet the educational requirement results in ineligibility for **an unmarried** parent under age 18.

Failure to live with parent(s) or in another adult-supervised setting results in ineligibility for **an unmarried** parent under age 18 and the child(ren) of such parent.

NOTE: When another parent of the child who is age 18 or over resides in the home, the child may be eligible.

EXAMPLE: A 16-year-old mother lives with the 19-year-old legal father of her baby. The father and the baby may be eligible, although the mother is ineligible.

EXAMPLE: A 16 year old mother is married to the 21 year old father of her child. All members of the assistance group are eligible to be included in the check. As a parent under 20, the mother must meet the educational requirements required on the PRC, or the case would be sanctioned.

15.6 LIFETIME LIMIT FOR RECEIPT OF CASH ASSISTANCE (TANF, WV WORKS)**A. SIXTY-MONTH TIME LIMIT**

NOTE: For cases that were active cash assistance recipients in 1/97, the first month of the lifetime limit is 1/97.

There is a lifetime limit of 60 months that a family may receive cash assistance under TANF and/or WV WORKS. The presence of even one AG member who has received TANF and/or WV WORKS as an adult or an emancipated minor renders the entire AG ineligible. Children who continue to reside with an adult or emancipated minor who received TANF and/or WV WORKS for 60 months are not eligible. The amount of the payment received has no bearing on the time limit, so that a payment of \$1 counts as one month toward the 60-month limit.

NOTE: Work-Eligible adults and emancipated minors excluded from the AG are not subject to the 60 month time limit.

EXAMPLE: A divorced woman and her two children have received WV WORKS for 60 months. The woman marries the father of one of her children and together they apply for a check. Although her husband has never received WV WORKS, the family is not eligible and the application is denied.

EXAMPLE: A married couple and their three children receive WV WORKS. In the 54th month, one parent is approved for SSI. The rest of the family is eligible to receive a check for an additional 6 months. In the 59th month the non-SSI parent dies. The case becomes a child-only case with no time limit.

EXAMPLE: A man and his child receive WV WORKS for 60 months. The father cannot find employment and relinquishes custody of the child to a grandmother. The grandmother no longer has a dependent child of her own, but received WV WORKS for 37 months before her youngest child turned 18. She opts to be included in the check with her grandchild and may receive a check for up to 23 months.

EXCEPTION: Any month during which the adult lived on an Indian reservation or in an Alaskan Native village is not counted toward the 60-month limit if:

- At least 1,000 individuals were living on the reservation or in the village; and
- At least 50% of the adults living there were unemployed.