

## **OWF Time Limits and Hardship Criteria for Huron County**

State law permits the county Job and Family Services to exempt up to 20% of OWF assistance groups who have participated in the program for the allotted 36-month time frame. The extensions of the time limit will be based on documentation that a hardship exists.

Every attempt will be made to help the participant to overcome the employment/ self-sufficiency barriers prior to the exhaustion of the 36-month time limit.

Those granted an exemption would be reviewed on a monthly basis. During the exemption the participant will be working with his/her case consultant and/or job coach in order to prepare for self-sufficiency. All criteria for exemptions will be time limited (6 months) and will require self-sufficiency contracts geared toward problem solving the hardship.

The conditions listed below are the criteria that Huron County Job and Family Services will use to determine hardship exemptions.

1. Seriously ill individuals and seriously ill children age 18 or younger. Seriously ill is defined as a life threatening condition. Those exempt must fulfill all medical requirements defined by a physician. The Huron County Department of Job and Family Services reserves the right to request a second medical opinion.
2. Families involved with child protective services. A case plan is required and families must be actively working to resolve the identified problem. On-going communication between the case consultant and the social worker must occur.
3. Domestic Violence. A police report must be filed and the victim must follow through with all the court orders. Additional referrals to community organizations that provide services to victims of domestic violence and active case management will be a requirement.

When Huron County Job and Family Services has reached its 20% limit, a committee comprised of case consultants and job coaches will review all those granted an exemption in order to determine which cases remain on exemptions status and which do not. Priority will be given to those households with the largest number of children. Priority will be given to those who have absolutely no other resources available such as community agencies or family members. An application must be completed and Administrator approval is needed for individuals granted a hardship exemption.

Workforce Development Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date of Policy \_\_\_\_\_