

# Family Violence Option Fact Sheet



## What is the Family Violence Option?

The Family Violence Option (FVO) is a special provision for domestic violence survivors who are recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The FVO helps survivors stay safe and become self-sufficient while complying with TANF requirements like child support enforcement and required work activities.

## How Can the Family Violence Option (FVO) Help?

### ❖ **Screening and Notification:**

Under the Family Violence Option, TANF case managers screen and identify survivors of domestic violence. All TANF-eligible applicants receive notification of the FVO through the Universal Notification Form.

### ❖ **Referrals:**

All TANF participants who disclose that they are experiencing family violence receive a referral to their local domestic violence agency.

### ❖ **Child Support Enforcement:**

In some cases, domestic violence survivors may be able to get a good cause exemption from child support collection. This exemption is available for survivors who would be in danger if they disclosed their location or attempted to collect child support.

### ❖ **Work Activities:**

Domestic violence survivors may be able to count domestic violence counseling or other activities necessary for safety or job readiness towards their work activity requirements.

### ❖ **Time Extensions:**

TANF participants who are experiencing domestic violence may be able to extend their benefits past the 60-month lifetime timelimit.

**Questions about the FVO? Contact your local Office of Public Assistance.**

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