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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This project was supported by Grant No. 2006-WR-AX-0032 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.