

## Notification of Right to Claim Good Cause

### **We may be able to temporarily excuse you from looking for work or helping us to get child support.**

The FITAP program requires parents to work, look for a job, or participate in activities such as school or job training that lead to a job. Tell us if any of these activities put you or your family in danger of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. We may be able to excuse you from these activities until there is no longer danger for you or your children.

The FITAP/KCSP programs require you to help Child Support Enforcement obtain child support for children receiving cash assistance. Tell us if giving information about the noncustodial parent or starting a paternity or child support case may put you or the children in danger of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Tell us if a child in your home was conceived because of rape or incest. We may be able to excuse you from helping us get child support from the noncustodial parent.

Additional program requirements such as school attendance for the children may be waived if you or the children are endangered.

Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse means things like:

- Constantly putting you down or telling you that you are worthless
- Threatening to hurt you, your children, your pets, or other family
- Pushing, grabbing, shoving, slapping, hitting, choking or hurting you
- Any kind of unwanted sexual contact
- There are more examples of abusive behavior on the back of this form.

### **Giving This Information Is Voluntary**

You do not have to tell us about these problems, if you don't want to. You should only tell as much as you feel comfortable telling.

### **Any Information You Give Us Is Confidential**

We will keep this information confidential and use the information only to help you get help to stop the problem. However, if you tell us that any children are being abused now, we must report the information to Child Welfare to protect the children. To report child abuse or neglect, call 1-855-4LA-KIDS (1-855-452-5437) toll free 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.

### **We Can Also Tell You Where You Can Get Help**

If you are a victim of domestic violence or fear for your safety, call the Louisiana Domestic Hotline at 1-888-411-1333 for free, confidential 24-hour assistance.

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### **Examples of Abuse:**

#### **Emotional or Verbal Abuse:**

- Putting you down
- Making you feel bad about yourself
- Calling you names
- Making you think you are crazy and playing mind games
- Humiliating you in private or public
- Making you feel guilty
- Threatening to harm you or your family, co-workers, friends or pets
- Accusing you of having affairs
- Depriving you of sleep, food, water, or medication

### **Coercion, Isolation and Intimidation**

- Controlling whom you talk to, what you do, or where you go
- Limiting your outside involvement
- Using jealousy to justify isolating you
- Using looks, gestures, or actions to scare or intimidate you
- Threatening to leave you or commit suicide if you leave
- Threatening to take your children away
- Making you do illegal things
- Keeping you away from your family and friends

### **Economic Abuse**

- Making you beg for money
- Not letting you know about or have access to family income
- Lying about or stealing money
- Ruining your credit
- Taking your money and not giving you enough for the basics
- Keeping you from getting a job or going to training
- Doing things that make you lose a job

### **Physical or Sexual Abuse**

- Pushing, shoving, hitting, biting, slapping, or hurting you in any way
- Restraining you in any way
- Threatening you with a fist, knife, gun, or any other object
- Destroying or hurting things you love, including your pets
- Any unwanted sexual contacts or threats of sexual abuse
- Forced or hurtful sex
- Mutilation
- Murder

To access specific information about your case or to request assistance, please call 1-888-LAHELPU (1-888-524-3578). Information can also be obtained at [www.dcfsl.a.gov](http://www.dcfsl.a.gov).

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I have read this notice, or it has been read to me. I understand this notice, and I understand that I may claim a family violence exemption at any time.

I want to claim a family violence exemption.    Yes    ☐    No    ☐

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Signature of applicant/recipient

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Date