

Do You Get \$205 a Month From Welfare?

You Will Lose Your Cash Assistance Starting August 1.

Pennsylvania's new state budget *ends* the General Assistance program. General Assistance is cash welfare for people without minor children.

You will lose your cash assistance on August 1 if:

- You are not caring for a child, *and*
- You get \$102.50 from welfare two times a month.

If you are caring for a child, your cash assistance is probably safe.

Almost everyone who is currently getting General Assistance will lose their cash assistance on August 1 – even if they are disabled and can't work.

Be sure to let the welfare office know if:

- **You are pregnant, OR**
- **You are caring for a child, OR**
- **You are getting benefits for a child, OR**
- **You are blind.**

Most people in these groups can *keep* their cash assistance.

If you lose your cash assistance, you can still get food stamps. If you have no income, you should get \$200 a month in food stamps.

You should also keep your Medical Assistance. Be sure to get your doctor to complete the welfare office's medical form (called the Employability Assessment Form), whenever the welfare office needs it.

If the welfare office makes a mistake, *appeal* and get help. The back of this page tells you how to appeal.

Appealing Welfare Notices is Easy!

On the back of your welfare notice, you will see a section that looks like this:

----- DETACH HERE DETACH HERE -----

IF YOU WISH TO APPEAL, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THIS FORM.

Please check one of the boxes to show which type of hearing you want:

I want a telephone Hearing. I and my witnesses and anyone helping me will be at this phone number: _____

I want a Telephone Hearing. I and my witnesses and anyone helping me will be at the County Assistance Office (CAO).

1 I want a Face to Face Hearing. I and my witnesses and anyone helping me will be in the hearing room with the Judge and the caseworker and CAO staff.

I want a Face to Face Hearing. I and my witnesses and anyone helping me will be in the hearing room with the Judge. The caseworker and other staff will be on the phone from the CAO, if they decide not to come to the hearing room.

PLEASE CHECK BELOW IF YOU NEED HELP BECAUSE OF A HEARING PROBLEM OR DISABILITY OR YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER:

2 I have a hearing impairment or disability. I will need special help.

3 I need an interpreter. There will be no cost to me. What language? _____

4 _____

CLIENT SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.	DATE
5 SIGNATURE CLIENT REP.	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.	DATE

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Helpful hints about filling out the appeal form:

1. You have the right to have a face-to-face hearing or a telephone hearing. We always recommend that people ask for a face-to-face hearing.
2. If you need special help because of a disability, be sure to check this box.
3. If you need an interpreter, be sure to check this box and write your language on the line. The welfare office will provide a free interpreter.
4. Make sure that you sign your name and write your address, phone number, and the date on this line.
5. If someone is helping you with your appeal, they can put their information on the second line.

Make a copy of your appeal for your records. Then, drop off the appeal at your welfare office and be sure to get a receipt. If you cannot get to your welfare office, send your appeal by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Even if you don't get a notice, you can still appeal. Simply write your appeal on a blank piece of paper.

If you need legal assistance, please call
Community Legal Services' Welfare Law Line at (215) 227-6485
Appeal first, then call for help!