

Select originating cluster

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Authorized Signature

Number: SS-IM-04-003
Issue Date: 04/02/04

Topic: Agency-wide Policy

Subject: TA-DVS Program Changes/Enhancements

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Self Sufficiency Program Staff and Mangers |

Message:

There are several changes or enhancements being made to the *Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors* (TA-DVS) Program and to rule, policy and forms that support that program. A letter is being sent out this week to domestic violence service providers, victims assistance programs and legal aid to give them a brief overview of the changes. This notice will provide DHS Self Sufficiency staff with a brief overview of the changes. Please review your Family Services Manual and Rules Release for additional information.

Forms: Effective April 1, 2004 the following domestic-violence forms have been added or updated. Additional DV form updates and modification to the *TRACS TA-DVS addendum* are expected in the next few months.

The DHS 456DV - *Notice of Decision and Action Taken* (TA-DVS Approval notice) has been updated. The English version is now on-line with translations to follow in the near future. The notice, which is required upon approval of TA-DVS, has been changed to include information to help clients understand what expectations exist around TA-DVS. It now includes information on case planning; client contributions if the client is employed; and the potential need to pay back money if used in a way that it was not intended. Forms and distributions will be sending out a supply of this form in the near future.

The DHS 1540 - *Are you being hurt by someone you love?* client brochure has been updated and is currently on-line. This brochure will be translated. An initial supply of this brochure will be sent to branches in the near future.

The DHS 1542 - *TA-DVS Eligibility & Benefit Calculation Worksheet* is now on-line. This is a new form that can be used as an optional tool for staff in helping determine what immediately available income the client has for determining eligibility for TA-DVS and what income is available over the 90 day eligibility period that can be used in helping meet the clients need. This form is available only on-line and only in English as it is a tool for staff use and not a client use form. This brochure will be translated. An initial supply of this brochure will be sent to branches in the near future.

The DHS 1543 - *Domestic Violence Assistance Agreement* is now on-line. Translations to follow in the near future. This agreement is a required use form when working with TANF and TA-DVS clients who have a current risk related to domestic violence. Case planning in DV cases has been an expectation since 1997. This form will provide a document to record plan activities/steps, partner coordination, and any agreed upon payments within TANF and TA-DVS. A supply of this form will be sent to branches in the near future.

Rule: Effective April 1, 2004, there are some rule changes that will be in place related to the TA-DVS program. The changes include:

Rule 461-195-0621 & 461-195-0601: The addition of a TA-DVS section on Intentional Program Violations (IPV). DHS will only pursue an IPV in a TA-DVS case, if it is intentional and without coercion from the abuser.

Rule 461-195-0531: The addition of an Overpayment (OVP) rule related to TA-DVS. DHS will not pursue an OVP if it is a result of coercion from the abuser or if pursuit would put the client at further risk of domestic violence.

Rule 461-135-1230: If a client submits an application (for TA-DVS) meeting all eligibility criteria set forth in OAR 461-135-1215 and 461-135-1225 less than 12 months after the commencement of a 90-day period of eligibility, that application must be jointly approved or denied by the Department's field and central offices.

Rule 461-135-1220 & 461-135-1235: The eligibility determination for period for TA-DVS is changing from 8 working hours to 16 working hours unless there is an immediate safety concern. Assessment of immediate safety concerns must still happen within 8 working hours.

Policy: Effective April 1, 2004, the *Family Services Manual* has been updated to provide more clarification related to working with survivors of domestic violence. Specifically, TANF Section K, along with all of the TA-DVS

chapters have been updated. substantive changes/clarifications include:

- Information on the *DV Assistance Agreement* Process.
- Additional information on Waiving TANF/TA-DVS requirements when there is a risk of domestic violence.
- When to narrate information in domestic violence cases.
- Insertion of Child Welfare Mandatory Reporting requirements in domestic violence cases (from PAM 9061).
- Information on rule changes listed above.
- Addition of referral options when an applicant does not appear to meet TA-DVS eligibility criteria.
- Added information on determining countable income in TA-DVS cases.
- Added information to help workers determine when to make a payment in a TA-DVS case...specifically housing payments and what things to consider before making a payment
- Updating the hearings section to include Intentional Program Violations and Overpayments.

If you have any questions about any of these changes, you can contact Carol Krager at (503) 945-5931 or e-mail her at Carol.Krager@state.or.us.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Contact(s):	Carol Krager		
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