Update 2009-24: Common Place
Child Support Domestic Abuse Good Cause Referrals

Background
Clients may request a Child Support Good Cause determination due to domestic abuse if they feel that they or their child(ren) would be in jeopardy if they cooperate in the child/medical/spousal support process.

Changes
CalWORKs (CW) Social Workers (SW) may refer potential Child Support Good Cause Claims (due to domestic abuse issues) to the assigned Eligibility Worker (EW). The EW will follow the Child Support Good Cause referral process, providing any documentation provided by the CW SW to the SSPM for their final determination.

Example:
A mother has been receiving CalWORKs for her two children for the last 24 months. Recently the children’s father has been abusive to the children when they visit because of the child support being collected from the Local Child Support Agency (LCSA) for this CalWORKs case. The mother is now concerned for the welfare of her children. She is currently exempt from Welfare-to-Work registration due to domestic abuse issues. She informs her assigned CalWORKs SW of her concerns. The CW SW completes an SCD 1554 indicating the client is requesting Good Cause from the LCSA child support referral process. The EW will follow the Child Support Good Cause process outlined in the Common Place Handbook.

[Refer to “Good Cause Determinations [EAS 82-512, 82-514, CCR 50175, 50771.5, 50185],” page 37-13 of the Common Place Handbook]
Implementation

Changes in this Update are effective immediately.

Documentation

Documentation of the client’s claim for Good Cause must be made and updated in the **Maintain Case Comments** window of CalWIN.

Forms

The “CalWORKs Domestic Abuse Participation Status” (SCD 1554) is revised and is available on the DEBS Forms Website.

Other Programs

Changes listed in this Update affect the CalWORKs and Medi-Cal programs.

UMESH POL, DIRECTOR
CalWIN Division

KATHERINE BUCKOVETZ, DIRECTOR
Department of Employment and Benefit Services

Contact Person(s): Candy Savin, CalWORKs Program Coordinator, (408) 491-6700.