State of Illinois
Department of Human Services

TANF MINOR PARENT LIVE AT HOME REQUIREMENT

After 6 months of receiving TANF, pregnant women and parents under age 18 must live with their parent, legal guardian, adult relative, or in a group home, maternity home, or other adult-supervised arrangement in order to qualify for TANF cash assistance for themselves and their children. In most cases, their cash benefits will be sent to the adult with whom they live.

If you are under 18, have received TANF for at least 6 months, and you do not live with a parent, legal guardian, adult relative, or in a group home, maternity home, or other adult-supervised arrangement, you cannot receive cash assistance for yourself and your child unless one of the following things is true:

* you are or have been married;
* your parent or guardian is deceased or their whereabouts are unknown;
* you have lived apart from your parent or guardian for at least one year before your child's birth or before you applied for assistance;
* your physical or emotional health or safety or that of your child would be in danger if you lifed with your parent or guardian;
* your parent or guardian will not let you and your child live with them;
* your parent or guardian lives out-of-state, is in an institution, or is addicted to drugs or alcohol;
* your return to your parent or guardian's home would violate a lease or local health or safety standards; or
* you are in a licensed substance abuse treatment program which would not be available if you returned to your parent or guardian's home.

If you are a pregnant woman or parent who is under age 18, you must provide proof that your living arrangement is acceptable or that you qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. If you do not meet the live at home requirement and you do not qualify for an exemption, you cannot get TANF cash assistance for your family; you may still be able to get medical assistance and food stamps.

If you have any questions, ask your caseworker at the local human services office. You may also call the Illinois Department of Human Services Helpline, toll-free at 1-800-843-6154 (voice). Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. excluding State holidays. Persons using a teletypewriter (TTY) can call toll-free at 1-800-447-6404. For answers to your questions, you may also write:

Illinois Department of Human Services
Bureau of Provider Assistance & Correspondence
100 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62762