



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 5101:1-3-14 Ohio works first: penalties.

Effective: April 1, 2026

(A) Which rules apply to penalties?

- (1) Section 5107.05 of the Revised Code authorizes the director of job and family services to adopt rules as necessary to comply with Title IV-A, Title IV-D, federal regulations, state law, and the state plan.
- (2) The county agency shall administer the work activity programs in accordance with the requirements contained in this rule. This rule seeks to clarify sections 5107.14, 5107.16, 5107.41 and 5107.70 of the Revised Code.

(B) What is a penalty?

A penalty is a negative action that occurs in certain situations that are not subject to the three tier sanction policy set forth in rule 5101:1-3-15 of the Administrative Code but continue to be subject to existing statutory and administrative rule penalties even if the requirement is included as part of the assistance group's self sufficiency contract (SSC) or individual opportunity plan (IOP). The individual who is under penalty remains a work eligible individual (WEI) as defined in paragraph (B) of rule 5101:1-3-12 of the Administrative Code. The following list of penalties is not all inclusive.

- (1) What penalties result in the denial or termination of Ohio works first (OWF)?
 - (a) Failure or refusal to sign the SSC or IOP by a WEI as set forth in rule 5101:1-3-11 of the Administrative Code.
 - (b) Failure without good cause to attend a comprehensive assessment by a WEI in accordance with rule 5101:1-2-01 of the Administrative Code.
 - (c) Failure or refusal to cooperate in the application and reapplication process (including failure to appear for scheduled appointments) and provide required verifications necessary to determine eligibility as described in rules 5101:1-2-01 and 5101:1-2-10 of the Administrative Code.
 - (d) Failure or refusal to accept unconditionally available income as described in rule 5101:1-23-20 of the Administrative Code.
- (2) What penalties result in a reduction of the OWF grant and/or the removal of an individual?
 - (a) Failure to cooperate in the enumeration process as described in rule 5101:1-3-09 of the Administrative Code results in the removal of the individual(s) for whom enumeration verification has not been provided for the OWF benefits.



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- (b) A teen parent subject to learning, earning and parenting (LEAP) as described in rule 5101:1-23-50 of the Administrative Code, who fails without good cause to meet the LEAP assessment and orientation requirements and who meets the following conditions, is not eligible to participate in OWF:
 - (i) The teen is under the age of eighteen;
 - (ii) The teen has a child and his or her child is at least twelve weeks of age;
 - (iii) The teen has not successfully completed high school or its equivalent;
and
 - (iv) The teen is not attending school, or an alternate education or training program defined by the county agency.
- (c) A LEAP attendance failure as set forth in section 5107.30 of the Revised Code and rule 5101:1-23-50 of the Administrative Code results in a reduction of the OWF grant.
- (d) A learnfare failure as set forth in section 5107.28 of the Revised Code results in a reduction of the OWF grant.
- (e) An individual who is a fugitive felon as defined in section 5101.26 of the Revised Code is not eligible to be included in the OWF grant.
- (f) An individual who is violating a condition of probation, a community control sanction, parole, or a post-release control sanction imposed under federal or state law for a felony is not eligible to be included in the OWF grant.

The county agency shall utilize the following procedure when it has information that an individual may be ineligible under paragraphs (B)(2)(e) and (B)(2)(f) of this rule:

- (i) The county agency shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency to give the law enforcement agency thirty days to determine if the individual is fleeing and to arrest or extradite the individual.
- (ii) When the law enforcement agency arrests or extradites the individual within thirty days, the county agency shall take appropriate action to remove the individual from the assistance group if he or she is no longer a member of the household.
- (iii) When the law enforcement agency has not been able to arrest or extradite the individual by the end of the thirty days, the county



agency shall take appropriate action to impose ineligibility under this rule for as long as the law enforcement agency continues to take appropriate action to arrest or extradite the individual and provides documentation.

- (iv) When the law enforcement agency indicates it will not attempt to arrest or extradite the individual within thirty days or that the individual is not fleeing, the county agency shall not impose ineligibility under this rule.

(3) What time-limited penalties result in the denial or termination of OWF?

- (a) Termination of employment without just cause as described in section 5107.26 of the Revised Code results in the imposition of a six month period of ineligibility for OWF.
 - (i) For OWF participants, the six month period begins the month after the month in which employment is terminated.
 - (ii) For transitional child care participants, the six month period begins the month in which the employment is terminated. This penalty only applies to transitional child care assistance groups that were in receipt of OWF cash assistance on the day prior to the day that the assistance group began receiving the transitional child care benefits. There is no penalty if the individual who terminated employment without just cause is not an OWF transitional child care participant.
- (b) Receipt of fraudulent assistance as set forth in section 5101.83 of the Revised Code and rule 5101:1-23-75 of the Administrative Code results in ineligibility for the assistance group until the fraudulent assistance is repaid.
- (c) Refusal to cooperate with a quality assessment (QA) review results in termination of OWF for the assistance group. "Refusal to cooperate with a quality assessment review" means that the assistance group is able to cooperate but refused to take the actions that it can take to assist in verifying the assistance group's eligibility. The OWF assistance group is ineligible for OWF for a period of three calendar months or until the assistance group cooperates with the QA review, whichever is earlier.

When the QA reviewer determines that the QA review cannot be completed because the OWF assistance group member responsible for



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cooperating with the QA review refuses to cooperate as defined in this paragraph, the QA reviewer will notify the county agency of the individual's refusal to cooperate. In accordance with the provisions set forth in rule 5101:6-2-04 of the Administrative Code, the county agency must send prior notice of adverse action to the assistance group prior to imposing the penalty. OWF assistance must be terminated as of the next recurring month following the expiration of the adverse action period, unless a hearing is timely requested pursuant to the provisions set forth in division 5101:6 of the Administrative Code.

- (4) What penalty is time-limited and results in the reduction of OWF and the removal of the individual?

Fraudulent misrepresentation of residence resulting in a federal or state court conviction results in a ten year period of ineligibility for OWF for the individual convicted.

- (a) The individual must have been convicted in federal or state court of having made a fraudulent statement or misrepresentation with respect to the place of residence in order to receive assistance simultaneously from two or more states.
- (b) The ten year period begins on the date the individual is convicted in federal or state court provided that the conviction date is on or after August 22, 1996.
- (c) The provision shall not apply with respect to a conviction of an individual for any month beginning after the president of the United States grants a pardon with respect to the conduct which was the subject of the conviction.

- (C) What provisions apply to assistance group movement in penalty situations?

- (1) The following provisions apply to the penalties listed in paragraph (B)(3) of this rule:

- (a) An individual who causes the penalty carries the penalty into another assistance group which becomes ineligible due to the penalty until the period of ineligibility ends. The remaining members of the new assistance group are not affected by that penalty, unless they were members of the original assistance group at the time of the penalty. The individual who is under penalty remains a WEI as defined in paragraph (B) of rule 5101:1-3-12 of the Administrative Code.



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- (b) A minor child who ceases to reside with the penalized assistance group is eligible for OWF provided all eligibility requirements are met.
- (c) The period of ineligibility shall be served by all remaining assistance group members in situations where the individual who caused the period of ineligibility leaves the household. This provision is not applicable to the penalty set forth in paragraph (B)(3)(c) of this rule.
- (d) Individuals in a two parent assistance group who separate carry the penalty with them into the next assistance group.
- (e) All individuals in the OWF assistance group or those individuals who would have been required to be included in the OWF assistance group in accordance with rule 5101:1-23-10 of the Administrative Code at the time of the failure are not eligible to receive OWF until the penalty has been served.
- (f) Individuals who enter the home after the date of ineligibility are not eligible to receive OWF regardless of whether they would otherwise meet the eligibility requirements.