



SNAP 705-1 Disqualification

References:	7 CFR 273.7
Overview:	<p><u>GENERAL RULE</u> - A nonexempt individual who refuses or fails without good cause to comply with the SNAP work requirements is ineligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and is considered an ineligible household member.</p> <p>Progressive penalty periods must be imposed if good cause cannot be established for <u>being terminated from a job, voluntarily quitting a job, refusing suitable work, or reducing work hours</u>. Progressive penalties will also be imposed for each subsequent failure to work register and for not providing eligibility staff with sufficient information regarding employment status or availability for work each time it is requested.</p> <p>If an individual is not exempt from work registration requirements, the penalty period for the <u>first offense</u> is 1 month or until compliance with work registration, whichever is later; <u>second offense</u> is 3 months or until compliance with work registration, whichever is later; <u>third offense</u> is 6 months or until compliance with work registration, whichever is later; and <u>subsequent offenses</u> is 6 months or until compliance with work registration, whichever is later. Disqualification ends when an exemption is met.</p>
Policy:	<p>INELIGIBILITY</p> <p>An individual is ineligible to participate in the program for the penalty periods established in this policy if that individual, without good cause:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Quits a job of 30 hours a week or more <u>or</u> a job with weekly earnings equal to or greater than the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours; OR2. Reduces his/her work hours and after the reduction is working less than 30 hours per week and weekly earnings are less than federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours; AND, NOTE: If the individual reduces his or her work hours to less than 30 a week, but continues to earn weekly wages that exceed the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours, the individual remains exempt from Program work requirements.3. The job quit or reduction of hours occurred in the 30 days preceding the date of application, recertification, six month report or any time it was reported thereafter. The 30 days begin with the day of the job quit. <p>Verification of a job quit/reduced hours is not required when an individual reports a job loss more than 30 days prior to the application, recertification, and six month report date.</p> <p>If an individual quits a job in the 30 days preceding an application, recertification, six months report, or any time it was reported thereafter and secures new employment at comparable wage or hours and is then laid off, through no fault of his/her own, the earlier quit will not form the basis of ineligibility.</p>



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	<p>An application cannot be held beyond the normal processing time-frame while a determination of voluntary quit is being made.</p> <p>In the case of an exemption for the receipt of Unemployment Insurance (UI) or TANF Cash Assistance, the individual must actually be receiving UI or TANF Cash assistance. If a disqualification has been determined, it can end when the individual is approved for UI or TANF Cash assistance.</p> <p>The minimum disqualification period cannot be avoided by requesting closure and reapplying. If the reapplication is during the disqualification period, the individual must be disqualified until the minimum period is served. If all individuals are disqualified, deny the reapplication.</p>
	<p>Ineligibility period one-person household application, recertification, six month report: When it is determined a one-person household voluntarily quit a job/reduced hours without good cause in the 30 days preceding the application, recertification, or 6 month report date, the application or recertification is denied or closed at the end of the six month report period.</p>
	<p>Ineligibility period multiple household members application, recertification, six month report: When it is determined a member of an applicant household voluntarily quit a job/reduced hours without good cause in the 30 days preceding the application, recertification, or 6 month report date, the application or recertification is denied or closed at the end of the six month report period.</p>
	<p>Ineligibility period for ongoing household: The disqualification period will begin the first month following the expiration of the 10-day adverse notice period unless the household requests a fair hearing. If a voluntary quit or reduction in work effort occurs in the last month of a certification period, or is determined in the last 30 days of the certification period, the individual must be denied recertification for a period equal to the appropriate mandatory disqualification period, beginning with the day after the last certification period ends and continuing for the length of the disqualification, regardless of whether the individual reapplies.</p>
	<p>Compliance: Work Registration Requirements are included on the self-service portal application, paper application, and the recertification form. These forms indicate that when a responsible member of the household signs these, they are attesting to the registration of all mandatory registrants and acknowledging the work requirements for all mandatory registrants. If the household includes work registration mandatory members, the work registration requirements and penalties for not complying must be explained to the household at application, recertification or when adding a new household member.</p>
	<p>Fair Hearing: If the participating individual's benefits are continued pending a fair hearing and the State agency determination is upheld, the disqualification period must begin the first of the month after the hearing decision is rendered.</p>
May 2015	Supersedes FS705-1 (10/01/11), Bulletin 103, Bulletin 114