

WAC 388-310-1450 Pregnancy to employment. (1) How do I know if I am eligible to participate in pregnancy to employment?

If you are on temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) or state family assistance (SFA) and are pregnant or have a child under the age of two years, you are a participant in the pregnancy to employment pathway.

(2) What services are provided to the pregnancy to employment pathway?

(a) The pregnancy to employment pathway provides you with services, when available in your community, to help you learn how to work, look for work, or prepare for work while still meeting your child's needs. You and your WorkFirst worker will decide which variety of services you need, such as:

- (i) Parenting education or parenting skills training;
- (ii) Safe and appropriate child care;
- (iii) Mental health treatment;
- (iv) Chemical dependency treatment;
- (v) Domestic violence services; or
- (vi) Employment services.

(b) The WorkFirst worker will contact you every three months to offer you services if you are not required to participate and choose to claim the infant exemption.

(3) What am I required to do while I am in the pregnancy to employment pathway?

You must participate in an assessment with a DSHS social service specialist and based on the results you will:

(a) Work with your WorkFirst worker to decide which required activities best meet your needs (these activities will depend on where you are in the pregnancy or the age of your child and will be added to your individual responsibility plan (IRP)); and

(b) Be required to participate in the activities identified in your IRP.

(4) What am I required to do while I am pregnant?

Based upon the results of your assessment, your participation:

(a) During your first and second trimester of pregnancy will be full-time work, looking for work, or preparing for work unless you have a good reason to participate fewer hours as described under WAC 388-310-1600.

(b) During your third trimester of pregnancy will be up to twenty hours per week in parenting education, parenting skills training, mental health treatment, chemical dependency treatment, or any combination of these, if:

- (i) The comprehensive evaluation or assessment indicates a need; and
- (ii) Services are available in your community.

(5) What am I required to do after my child is born?

After the birth of your child, you may choose to take the infant exemption under WAC 388-310-0300 or volunteer to participate in WorkFirst activities to the fullest of your abilities under WAC 388-310-0400.

(6) What if I have used my twenty-four month lifetime infant exemption?

If you have another child after using all twenty-four months of the infant exemption, you will be:

(a) Eligible for a twelve-week postpartum deferral period to personally take care of an infant less than twelve weeks of age but will be required to participate up to twenty hours per week in parenting

education, parenting skills training, mental health treatment, chemical dependency treatment, or any combination of these, if the comprehensive evaluation or assessment indicates a need and services are available in your community.

(b) Required to participate full time, unless otherwise exempt or you have good reason to participate fewer hours, once your child turns twelve weeks old in one or more of the following activities:

(i) Work;

(ii) Looking for work;

(iii) Preparing for work by participating in a combination of activities based upon the results of your assessment.

(7) Will I be sanctioned if I refuse to participate?

(a) You are required to participate in the WorkFirst program under WAC 388-310-0200 subject to sanction under WAC 388-310-1600 unless you have good reason and you:

(i) Are in your third trimester of pregnancy;

(ii) Have not used up your twenty-four month lifetime infant exemption and have a child under the age of two years old; or

(iii) Have used up your twenty-four month lifetime infant exemption and have a child under twelve weeks.

(b) You may be sanctioned if you stop participating in required parenting education, parenting skills training, mental health or chemical dependency treatment when you are in your third trimester, claiming the infant exemption, or using a twelve-week postpartum deferral period.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08A.270, 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, and chapter 74.12 RCW. WSR 18-03-059, § 388-310-1450, filed 1/10/18, effective 2/10/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08A.270, 74.04.050, 74.08.090, and 74.04.055. WSR 15-09-037, § 388-310-1450, filed 4/9/15, effective 5/10/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.08.090, 74.04.055 and 2007 c 289. WSR 08-02-055, § 388-310-1450, filed 12/28/07, effective 2/1/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.04.050. WSR 02-14-087, § 388-310-1450, filed 6/28/02, effective 7/29/02; WSR 00-06-062, § 388-310-1450, filed 3/1/00, effective 3/1/00.]