

Sole Parent Support obligations and privacy form

This form:

- lists your obligations
- explains what will happen if obligations are not met
- includes a page for you to sign if we need you to
- explains how we protect the information given to us, and what we can do with it.

Obligations

These are what you have to do to receive payments from Work and Income. Please read all the obligations in each section because they could apply to you if your circumstances change.

1. Change of circumstances

I must tell Work and Income or my Contracted Service Provider (where I have one assigned to me) immediately if I:

- have a change in work situation (such as starting part-time, casual or full-time work, whether paid or unpaid)
- become self-employed/start to run a business
- have changes to my income or financial circumstances
- intend to travel overseas
- start/finish part-time or full-time study
- have changes to personal details (such as name, address, contact details or bank account number)
- have changes to my living situation (such as marriage or separation, starting or ending a civil union, starting or ending a de facto relationship with someone of the same or opposite sex, change in the number of children supported, change in accommodation costs)
- am imprisoned/held in custody on remand
- am admitted to or discharged from hospital
- have been granted an overseas pension
- have any other change that may affect my benefit entitlement or rate.

2. Part-time work obligations

I understand that if my youngest child (including any child I get Orphan's or Unsupported Child's Benefit for) is aged between three and 13 years, I'll have the following part-time work obligations:

- be available for and take reasonable steps to get a suitable part-time job
- take any offer of suitable part-time or temporary work, or work that is seasonal or subsidised
- attend and take part in any suitable job interviews Work and Income ask me to
- take and pass any drug test potential employers or training providers require
- attend and take part in interviews with Work and Income as required
- work with Work and Income to plan how I'll find a suitable job
- take part in any other activities that Work and Income refer me to, such as attend any job training courses, seminars, work experience or work assessments (including rehabilitation, but not medical treatment) that will improve my work readiness or help me get work
- let Work and Income know how I'm meeting my work obligations as often as Work and Income reasonably requires.

Part-time means you'll generally be expected to look for work of at least 20 hours a week.

3. Work preparation obligations

I understand that if my youngest child (including any child I get Orphan's or Unsupported Child's Benefit for) is under three years of age, I'll have the following work preparation obligations to:

- take reasonable steps to prepare and plan for work
- attend and take part in work preparation interviews, where Work and Income ask me to
- attend and take part in work related activities or programmes such as a work assessment, a programme or seminar to increase particular skills or enhance motivation where Work and Income ask me to
- attend and take part in any other activity that Work and Income require me to (including rehabilitation but not medical treatment, voluntary work or activity in the community).

4. Work ability assessment

Where I've been asked to I'll have an obligation to attend and participate in a work ability assessment.

5. Working with a Contracted Service Provider

Where I've been asked to work with a Contracted Service Provider I'll have an obligation to co-operate with them and to:

- attend and participate in any interview with them
- report to them on how I'm meeting my obligations
- complete assessments with them.

6. Obligations for parents and caregivers with dependent children

I understand that while I'm getting this benefit I'll be expected to take reasonable steps to meet social obligations as a parent or a caregiver. These are to ensure my dependent children (including any child I get Orphan's or Unsupported Child's Benefit for) are:

- enrolled with a general practitioner (GP) or a medical practice that is part of a Primary Health Organisation (PHO)
- enrolled in and attending one of the following from the age of three until they start school:
 - an approved early childhood education programme or
 - Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu – The Correspondence School or
 - another approved parenting and early childhood home education programme
- up to date with core Well Child/Tamariki Ora checks if aged under five
- enrolled in and attending school from the age of five or six (depending on when they start school).

I understand that I may be required to meet with Work and Income to discuss how I'm meeting my obligations as a parent or a caregiver.

7. Temporary additional support

I understand that if I've made an application for Temporary Additional Support, I must take all necessary steps to get other assistance towards costs and take reasonable steps to increase my income and reduce costs where possible.

What happens if you do not meet your obligations

Not telling us about changes in your circumstances

I understand that if I do not tell Work and Income about changes in my life that might affect my benefit entitlement, or rate, that:

- my benefit may be reviewed and cancelled and
- I may have to pay back the total amount of any overpayment that I have received and
- Work and Income may impose a penalty (up to three times the value of the overpayment) or
- I may be prosecuted and fined and/or imprisoned.

The consequences described above will also apply if we use your application form to grant you the Emergency Benefit or Emergency Maintenance Allowance.

Not meeting obligations that apply to your situation

I understand that I must meet these obligations and that:

- The first and second time I don't meet my obligations, without a good and sufficient reason, my benefit will be reduced by 50%. I understand that my benefit will increase if I undertake the activity I failed to do.
- The third time I don't meet my obligations, without a good and sufficient reason, my benefit will be reduced by 50% for 13 weeks. If my benefit has been reduced and I agree to take part in an approved activity for at least six weeks and I'm still entitled to my benefit, it will be increased.
- When my benefit is reduced this may affect my entitlement to any supplementary assistance I'm receiving.

The consequences described above will also apply if we use your application form to grant you the Emergency Benefit or Emergency Maintenance Allowance, and you do not meet one of the obligations for parents and caregivers of dependent children.

Not meeting your obligation to take any offer of suitable work

I understand that if I fail my work obligation to take any offer of suitable work, including temporary work, or work that is seasonal or subsidised, without a good and sufficient reason, that my benefit will be reduced by 50% for 13 weeks. If my benefit has been reduced and I agree to take part in an approved activity for at least six weeks and I'm still entitled to my benefit, it will be increased.

Not meeting your obligations to take and pass drug tests

I understand that if I fail my work obligation to take and pass a drug test when required by a potential employer or training provider, without a good and sufficient reason, that:

- the first time I do this, I will have to agree to stop using drugs so that I can pass a drug test
- the second time I do this, I will have to agree to take and pass a drug test within 25 working days.

I understand that if I don't take and pass a drug test within 25 working days my benefit will be reduced by 50% for 13 weeks. If my benefit has been reduced and I agree to take part in an approved activity for at least six weeks and I'm still entitled to my benefit, it will be increased.

I understand that if I fail a pre-employment drug test with a potential employer I will need to pay for the test from my benefit.

I also understand that if I have to take and pass a drug test within 25 working days I will need to pay for the test.

I understand that if I have failed other obligations in the last 12 months the consequences of a first or second failed drug test may be more serious than those described above.

Not telling us if you plan to travel overseas

I understand that if I intend to travel overseas and don't let Work and Income know before I leave New Zealand, my benefit will be stopped the day after I leave New Zealand.

The consequence described above will also apply if we use your application form to grant you the Emergency Benefit or Emergency Maintenance Allowance.

You have the right to review or dispute any decision to reduce or stop your benefit.

If we use your application form to grant the Emergency Benefit or Emergency Maintenance Allowance, and you fail one or more of the obligations assigned to you as a condition of granting your benefit, your benefit may be reduced or stopped.

Privacy Statement

The Ministry of Social Development includes Work and Income, MSD Housing Assessment, Senior Services, StudyLink and other service lines. The legislation administered by the Ministry of Social Development allows us to check the information that you give us. This may happen when you apply for assistance and at any time after that. The Privacy Act 1993 requires us to tell you why we collect the information and what we will do with it.

Why we collect information

The information you give us or your Contracted Service Provider¹ is collected under the authority of the legislation administered by the Ministry of Social Development and will be held by the Ministry of Social Development and/or your Contracted Service Provider.

The information is collected for the purposes of the legislation administered by the Ministry of Social Development including:

- granting benefits and other assistance under the Social Security Act 1964
- granting student loans and student allowances under the Education Act 1989
- delivering superannuation services under the New Zealand Superannuation and Retirement Income Act 2001 and the Veterans' Support Act 2014
- assessing eligibility for social housing and calculating income-related rents under the Housing Restructuring and Tenancy Matters Act 1992
- care and protection needs of children under the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989
- providing support and services for you and your family in relation to employment, education and housing
- assessing whether you and/or your partner (if you have one) may be entitled to an overseas pension, benefit or allowance.

MSD may also use the information for statistical and research purposes, and for providing advice to Government.

The Ministry of Social Development and your Contracted Service Provider will exchange information about you in order to provide you with your correct financial assistance and other services. Your Contracted Service Provider may collect information from other agencies where that information is relevant to the services that the Contracted Service Provider is providing you.

You are not required to give the Ministry of Social Development or your Contracted Service Provider information, but if you do not give them, or us, all the information we ask for, your application for benefits and other assistance may be declined.

¹The term Contracted Service Providers has the meaning given by section 125A(1), Social Security Act 1964, and references to Contracted Service Provider in this privacy statement only apply where one has been assigned to you.

We may use information for social housing

Information you give us when you apply for assistance, and at any time after that, may also be used for social housing purposes² under the Housing Restructuring and Tenancy Matters Act 1992, including reviewing your eligibility for social housing or your income-related rent.

²Social housing is subsidised housing available to people in the greatest need of housing for the duration of their need. It is provided by Housing New Zealand and approved community housing providers.

We may contact health providers

The Ministry of Social Development or your Contracted Service Provider may contact health providers to check any health related information you give us.

We may compare the information you give us with information held by other agencies

The information you give us, or your Contracted Service Provider, may be compared with information held by other agencies such as Inland Revenue, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Defence Force, Department of Corrections, New Zealand Customs Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Accident Compensation Corporation, Housing New Zealand Corporation, Ministry of Health, New Zealand Qualifications Authority, Tertiary Education Commission, Student Job Search, education providers, and Immigration New Zealand. It may also be compared with social security information (for example, pension or benefit information) held by other governments (including Australia, the Netherlands and Malta).

We may share information with Inland Revenue

Under the Tax Administration Act 1994, if you have dependent children, the information you give us, or your Contracted Service Provider, may be shared with Inland Revenue for the purpose of administering Working for Families Tax Credits. Inland Revenue may also:

- use the information for the purposes of child support, student loans and taxation
- disclose it to the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment, Statistics New Zealand, the Ministry of Justice, the Accident Compensation Corporation, and the Ministry of Education
- disclose your personal information to your partner.

We may give information to employers, childcare providers, service providers and social housing providers

The Ministry of Social Development or your Contracted Service Provider may:

- give employers (and recruitment agencies, immigration advisors and immigration consultants acting on behalf of employers) information about you to find you employment and contact the employer to discuss the result of any job interview that you are referred to
- share information with childcare centres to administer your entitlement to childcare assistance
- give information about you to the Tertiary Education Commission, Workbridge, training providers, education providers, career services or other agencies that have a formal agreement to provide services on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development.
- share information about you with social housing providers (such as Housing New Zealand) to administer your housing-related assistance.

We may use your information to give you a better service

Other information that you give us or your Contracted Service Provider (for example, on your skills, aspirations, family circumstances) that is not required to assess your entitlement to a benefit may be used by us or your Contracted Service Provider to provide a better service to you.

You have the right to see your information and ask for it to be corrected

Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask to see all information we, or your Contracted Service Provider, hold about you and to ask them, or us, to correct that information.

Signature page for Sole Parent Support

Applicant copy

By signing this form, you agree to meet your obligations.

Applicant

- I have had the obligations explained to me, I understand these, and have been given a copy of these obligations
- I have read (or had explained to me) and understood what will happen if I do not meet my obligations
- I understand my responsibility to let Work and Income or my Contracted Service Provider (where I have one assigned to me) know about any changes in my circumstances and what will happen if I do not do this
- All the questions which apply to my situation have been completed
- The information I have provided is true and complete
- I have read (or had explained to me) and understood the Privacy Statement contained in this form

Applicant's name (print)

Applicant's signature

Date

Day Month Year

You must give us all the information we need.

If we find out later that any information you give us is not true, or that you knew information you should have told us and did not tell us, we may stop paying your benefit. You might need to pay money back, we may impose a penalty, and you could be prosecuted.

If someone has completed the application form for you please get them to complete the Helper's statement on page 36

Please use the "What to Bring" checklist (page 3) to help you make sure you bring all the documents you need to your meeting with us.

Signature page for Sole Parent Support

Office copy

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