

# ESTABLISHING GOOD CAUSE

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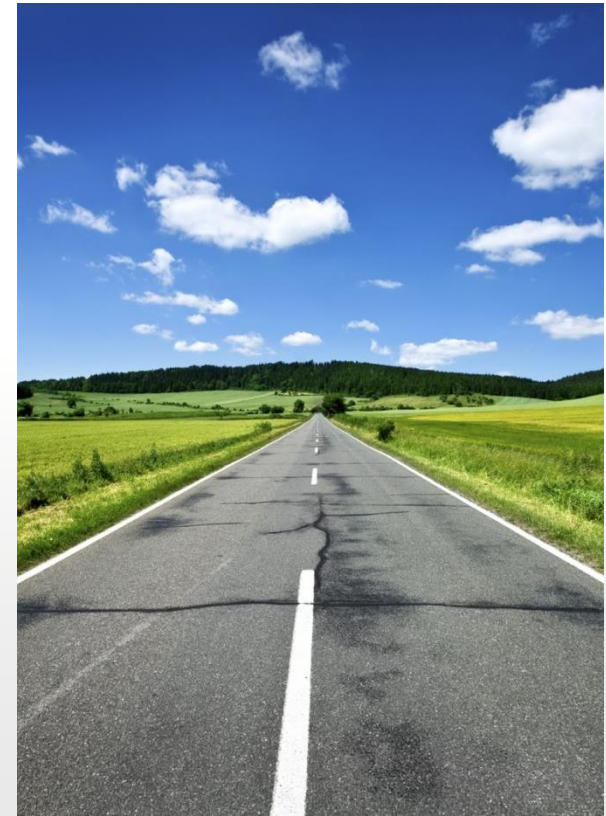
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ECONOMIC JUSTICE

WASHINGTON STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



# HOW WE DETERMINE GOOD CAUSE IN WA STATE

Our policies center survivors and their  
experiences in this process.



# WHAT DETERMINES GOOD CAUSE

- A victim's statement is enough to grant good cause when the client has outlined their fears and concerns about Child Support collection.
- From the Social Services Manual:
  - “Additional documents, statements or other types of verification that has been gathered that support the parent's/caretaker's Good Cause request. Even without other documentation, you must accept a sworn statement in support of the good cause claim.”

## MORE FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICES MANUAL

- “DSHS cannot require a parent to provide court orders or police records in order to support a claim of Good Cause. There are many reasons why a victim of family violence would not be in possession of these. For example, if s/he has fled and left these papers behind, or if seeking copies of these documents would alert a perpetrator to her/his whereabouts. In addition, many victims, for a variety of good reasons, have never sought help from systems like the police, courts or medical facilities.”

# GOOD CAUSE LEVEL A AND B

- Once Good Cause is determined:
- TANF case workers explain the differences of Good Cause Level A & B.
- The parent chooses which works best for her and her particular situation.



# QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Feel free to contact me!

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