

Department of Social and Health Services

Olympia, Washington

**EAZ Manual**

Revision #979  
Category Temporary absence  
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**Summary**

Updated the EAZ chapters Temporary Absence linking to the ACES User manual PAL.

See below for edited text:

## TANF/SFA Temporary Absence

### Primary tabs

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## Purpose:

This category explains the requirements for a child to live with a relative, guardian, or custodian to be eligible for TANF or SFA.

### [WAC 388-454-0015](#) Temporary absence from the home.

- [Clarifying Information and Worker Responsibilities](#)

### [WAC 388-454-0020](#) Temporary absence to attend school or training.

- [Clarifying Information and Worker Responsibilities](#)

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## Clarifying Information - [WAC 388-454-0015](#)

1. **Definition of temporary absence:** a separation from the child and their parent/caregiver that is no more than 180 days unless the parent/caregiver has reported within five days of learning the child's absence will exceed this period.
  1. **Recipients:** A temporary absence can't exceed 180 days unless the parent/caregiver is receiving care in a hospital, substance abuse treatment facility, or other medical institution. [See Processing Alternatives for ACES coding.](#) [See Worker Responsibilities #6](#) below for more information on CPI when the temporary absence exceeds 180 days.
  2. **Applicants:** The 180-day period starts on the day the child actually left the home for households that are applying for TANF during the time the child is absent.
    - Open assistance up to 180 days if DCFS verifies that the child will return to the parent/caregiver within 180 days.
    - Open assistance up to 30 days in advance of a child's return home if the child has already been out of the home for more than 180 days at the time of application for benefits **and** DCFS verifies that the child will return home.

Commented [GS(1)]: I added a link to the ACES User Manual

Notes: (1) The definition of "placed by DCFS" includes when the placement is court-ordered or voluntary. DCFS may place children for several months with a protective custody order but without a formal dependency court order. (2) Temporary absence also applies to TANF households that is receiving assistance (pregnancy or another child in the home). In this situation, the child returning home is the "applicant" and the 30-day rule would apply.