



ABLE ADVOCATES
FOR BASIC LEGAL
EQUALITY, INC.

LAWO
LEGAL AID OF WESTERN OHIO, INC.

If you feel you have been unfairly denied Cash Assistance or have problems with a work requirement or sanction, you may be entitled to legal help.

Contact Legal Aid Line to apply for legal help.



TOLL-FREE
(888) 534-1432

RESIDENTS OF LUCAS COUNTY
(419) 724-0460



APPLY ONLINE
www.LegalAidLine.org

ABLE and LAWO are law firms that provide free legal help in civil legal aid matters to eligible individuals and groups that do not have access to the legal system and cannot afford a private attorney.

Visit our websites at
www.ablelaw.org or **www.lawolaw.org**
for additional information about our services.

OHIO WORKS FIRST Cash Assistance & Work Requirements



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If you receive Cash Assistance from Ohio Works First (OWF), you may be required to participate in work programs.

It is important to tell your caseworker and any job supervisors immediately if you have a problem that keeps you from working—including:

- » you have health problems;
- » you do not have childcare;
- » you are a victim of domestic violence.

OWF can “sanction” you and end your benefits if you do not meet your work requirement without giving a good reason.

The laws **protect you** if you are a victim of domestic violence, can not get childcare, or have a physical or mental impairment and are unable to work. You do not have to be totally disabled, unable to do any work activities, or receiving disability benefits like Social Security or SSI to get this protection.

If you have such a disability, you must be given meaningful access and equal opportunity to benefit from government programs.

If you have any of these problems that make you unable to meet your work requirement, follow these steps:

1

Tell the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) about these problems. Make sure they are written down in your application or self-sufficiency plan.

Do not sign a self-sufficiency plan without your problems being listed.

2

Tell the DJFS the work activities you can and cannot do.

3

Tell the DJFS **right away** if you are given a task that you cannot do without hurting yourself.



You should not be given a work assignment that you are unable to do.

The DJFS can ask you to prove that you have a health problem and how it affects you.

If you are having trouble getting medical documentation, you need to let your caseworker know and **ask for help in writing**. The Department of Job and Family services must help you if you ask for help.