


**FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Policy Number:</b>	25 -14
<b>Policy Title:</b>	Child Support Good Cause Requirements For Refugee and Asylee Populations
<b>Release Date:</b>	March 5, 2025
<b>Effective Date:</b>	IMMEDIATELY
<b>Approved By:</b>	Augustin Ntabaganyimana, Executive Director Family Investment Administration
<b>Revision Date(s):</b>	Original: January 7, 2005; Revisions: September 15, 2022
<b>Supersedes:</b>	FIA Action Transmittal (AT) #05-20 (previous version released January 7, 2005); AT #22-32 (previous version released September 15, 2022)
<b>Originating Office:</b>	Office of Programs <a href="mailto:fia.policy@maryland.gov">fia.policy@maryland.gov</a>
<b>Required Actions:</b>	To grant good cause exemption for TCA child support requirements for certain humanitarian immigrants when the custodial parent self-attests that the absent parent is in a foreign country, missing, or reportedly deceased.
<b>Key Words:</b>	Child Support, good cause for refugees and asylees, TCA Manual sections 310, 500, and 1308
<b>Related Federal Law:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Related State Laws:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>COMAR</b>	<a href="#">07.03.03.10</a>
<b>State Plan Implications?</b>	No

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 <p><b>Maryland</b> Department of Human Services</p> <p>Department of Human Services 25 S Charles Street Baltimore MD 21201</p>	<p><b>FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION (FIA) ACTION TRANSMITTAL</b></p>
<p><b>Control Number: # 25-14</b></p>	<p><b>Effective Date: Immediately</b></p> <p><b>Issuance Date: March 5, 2025</b></p>

**TO: LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES (LDSS)  
DIRECTORS, LDSS DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR  
FAMILY INVESTMENT, FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND  
ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: AUGUSTIN NTABAGANYIMANA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**RE: CHILD SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR REFUGEES & ASYLEES**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)**

**Summary**

This Action Transmittal (AT) provides clarification to all local department staff on TCA child support requirements for refugee and asylee customers. This AT also provides information on how to serve refugees with an open TCA case and guidelines regarding Good Cause for Child Support for refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian immigrant populations.

The United States government provides refuge to individuals facing persecution in their home countries. Once resettled in Maryland, refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa holders, Cuban and Haitian Entrants, victims of trafficking, and certain humanitarian parolees can apply for assistance through the Maryland Department of Human Services' local social services departments. To achieve self-sufficiency, these refugees must also participate in work activities, primarily facilitated by refugee resettlement agencies.

The Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program requires single parents applying for assistance for minor children to file a child support claim against

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the absent parent and cooperate with the Child Support Administration (CSA) in collecting payments. This requirement can create significant challenges for many refugee families, who often have little or no information about missing family members, including non-custodial parents. Additionally, many refugees come from countries that lack international agreements with the U.S. to enforce child support orders across borders.

### **Required Action**

Effective immediately, a TCA applicant who has verified a qualified refugee or asylee immigration status, must be granted a “Good Cause” exemption from the child support cooperation requirement if the absent (non-custodial) parent is in a foreign country, reportedly missing, or deceased.

Qualified refugee or asylee immigration status includes:

- A. Refugees,
- B. Asylees,
- C. Afghan Special Immigrants,
- D. Victims of Trafficking,
- E. Cuban or Haitian Entrants,
- F. Afghan Humanitarian Parolees previously granted parole into the U.S.,  
or
- G. Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees previously granted parole into the U.S.

If the TCA applicant meets the requirements for “Good Cause”, the case manager must:

1. Address the E&E Non-Custodial Parent Demographic Details screen by selecting the Good Cause Claim field.
2. Enter the referral date.
3. In the Good Cause reason field, select Potential Physical Harm.
4. In the non-custodial parent’s address field, enter “Absent parent believed to be in a foreign country or may be deceased” (This will advise CSA not to pursue child support action.); and
5. Review the absent parent’s status at redetermination for any changes.

## References

[AT 05-20 Child Support Requirements for Refugees and Asylees](#)  
[AT 22-32 Grant “Good Cause Exemptions” for Child Support Requirement for Ukrainian Parolees](#)  
[TCA Manual Section 310](#)  
[TCA Manual Section 500](#)  
[TCA Manual Section 1308](#)  
[E&E How-To Guide: Process a Temporary Cash Assistance \(TCA\) Application](#)  
[E&E How-to-Guide: IV-D Coop & Good Cause Information](#)  
[Status and Documentation Requirements for the Office of Refugee Resettlement \(ORR\) Program](#)

## Inquiries

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#). Montgomery County staff may submit their policy questions via email at [fia.policy@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.policy@maryland.gov). For questions related to E&E, please email [fia.bsdm@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.bsdm@maryland.gov).

cc: DHS Executive Staff  
Constituent Services  
DHS Help Desk  
FIA Management Staff  
Office of Administrative Hearings