

## Limited Assignment Fact Sheet

### Key Release Terminology

#### New Assignment

The case had NO Public Assistance prior to October 1, 2009 but has Public Assistance on/after October 1, 2009. These cases will follow Limited Assignment Rules.

#### Continuous Assignment

The case is currently on Public Assistance under an assignment that began before October 1, 2009, and continues to be on Public Assistance on and after October 1, 2009. These assignments will follow PRWORA rules until the current public assistance terminates.

#### Break-In- Assistance Assignment

The case previously received benefits under a PRWORA assignment that has since terminated. Any assignment that begins on or after October 1, 2009 will follow Limited Assignment rules. However, PRWORA arrearages are maintained, and PRWORA rules will be followed for any retroactive adjustments made for the time period that the case was on assignment under PRWORA rules.

#### What is Limited Assignment?

Beginning October 1, 2009 families are no longer required to sign over (or assign) their rights to past due child or spousal support payments, which accrued before they received Ohio Works First (OWF) Public Assistance.

Only support that is owed to the obligee during the public assistance benefit period is assigned to the state.

#### What will happen to Current Assistance Cases on October 1, 2009?

Cases that are receiving OWF assistance prior to October 1, 2009, and continue to receive assistance on and after October 1, 2009 will still follow PRWORA assignment rules.

Once the assistance terminates, the PRWORA assignment will terminate.

If the obligee would go back on assistance after October 1, 2009, this assignment will follow Limited Assignment rules.

#### What Happens to PRWORA Arrearages after Limited Assignment is Effective?

Ohio has chosen to continue to distribute support according to PRWORA Distribution rules in Former-Assistance cases. As a result, Ohio cases will retain assigned arrearages that accrued under PRWORA (including conditionally assigned arrearages).

#### Why the Change to Limited Assignment?

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) under section 408a(3) of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act required states to implement Limited Assignment no later than October 1, 2009.

## How Does Limited Assignment Benefit Families?

**Child Support is a “family-first” program that aims to ensure self-sufficiency by making child support a regular source of income.** Limited Assignment will benefit families by allowing them to retain more of their child and spousal support arrearages.

**More child and spousal support will be distributed to families while receiving public assistance.** Families receiving OWF assistance under Limited Assignment will still retain their child and spousal support arrearages that accrued prior to the OWF assignment (known as “unassigned arrearages”). This means that families can receive child support collections that are paid toward their unassigned arrearages while on assistance once arrearages assigned to the state are paid off.

**More child and spousal support will be distributed to families once they have stopped receiving public assistance.** Only those arrearages that accrued while the family is receiving assistance will be assigned to the state. Since families no longer have to conditionally assign past due support that was owed to them prior to the assignment, any collections made toward these arrearages will now be distributed to the family.