



## TANF 304-1 Teen/Minor Parent Living Arrangement

**Supersedes:** TANF 305-1 (1/1/07); TANF 304-1 (1/1/18)

**Reference:** ARM 37.78.206

**Overview:** A teen parent must reside with and in the same residence as his or her parent(s) or other specified caretaker relative. If the teen parent is not living with a specified caretaker relative, the Teen Parent Living Arrangement Review Committee must review and approve the teen living arrangement. If the teen is not approved to live independently or the teen refuses to participate in the review process, TANF cash assistance application is denied for the household.

Teen parent living arrangement criteria does not apply to minor parents.

### **TEEN PARENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

The evaluation of the teen parent's circumstances as well as assistance in locating an alternative adult-supervised setting, if necessary, will be conducted by a committee comprised of any or all of the following:

1. Teen parent (mandatory)
2. OPA worker, supervisor and/or manager (mandatory)
3. Pathways worker, supervisor and/or manager (mandatory if being referred to Pathways)
4. Social worker (as necessary)
5. Domestic violence advocate (as necessary)
6. Health care professional (as necessary)
7. School counselor or other school official (as necessary)
8. Representative from any other agency or organization with whom the teen parent is involved (as necessary)
9. Any other interested party (as necessary)

The committee will be available to meet on an as-needed basis.

### **INDEPENDENT LIVING REQUIREMENTS:**

The Teen Parent Living Arrangement Review Committee may determine that the living arrangement is appropriate because the teen parent is:

1. Living in an appropriate alternative adult-supervised setting; or
2. Approved to live without adult supervision.

For the review committee to approve independent living, the teen must declare one or more of the following circumstances exist:

1. The teen parent has no living parent, legal guardian, or other adult (who would meet applicable state criteria to act as the teen parent's legal guardian) or whose whereabouts are known.
2. The teen parent has no parent, legal guardian, or other appropriate adult relative who allows the teen parent to live in their home.
3. The teen parent is living independently because:
  - a. Abuse and/or domestic violence exists in the parent's, legal guardian's, or adult relative's home.
  - b. Alcohol and/or drug abuse exists in the parent's, legal guardian's or adult relative's home.
  - c. His/Her parent, legal guardian, or adult relative lives out of the state/country.
  - d. His/Her parent, legal guardian, or adult relative is mentally ill.
  - e. His/Her parent, legal guardian, or adult relative is dangerous.

**INDEPENDENT LIVING REQUIREMENT VERIFICATION:**

All declared circumstances must be verified through hard copy or collateral contact.

**INDEPENDENT LIVING REVIEW:**

If the teen parent has been approved to live independently, this arrangement will be reviewed at redetermination and any time the teen parent fails to comply with Employability/Service Plan activities. If necessary, OPA may request the committee to reconsider the initial decision.

**EMANCIPATION:**

If an individual under the age of 18 has been emancipated by the courts or by marriage, he/she is considered an adult for eligibility purposes. The emancipated minor is not eligible to receive assistance unless he/she is a parent of a minor child. If the minor is emancipated due to marriage and the marriage is annulled, then the emancipation is also considered invalid and the teen must comply with independent living requirements.

**Effective Date:** April 01, 2020