

“Good Cause”

Pregnant women are asked to cooperate with child support agencies by identifying the father of a child. You may have a good reason for not cooperating. This “good cause” reason for not identifying the name of your baby’s father may be one of the following:

1. Cooperation could result in physical and/or emotional harm to you or your child;
2. Your cooperation would make it more difficult to escape domestic abuse or risk of abuse;
3. Your child was born as a result of sexual assault or incest;
4. A petition for adoption of your child is filed or you are working with an agency that is helping you decide if you will place your child for adoption.

Necessary Paperwork

A BadgerCare Plus Income Maintenance worker will be assigned to your application for Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus benefits when you apply. If you do not wish to identify the father of your baby, you will need to prepare a written statement that says that you certify, to the best of your knowledge, that you have a good reason for not identifying the father. You will sign this statement and give it to the worker.

See the other side of this insert to learn the **steps to take** on how to complete this written paragraph on good cause, called a “good cause claim.”

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Steps to Take if There Is Good Cause to Not Identify Your Baby's Father

If you do not want to identify the baby's father, you can take the following steps to move forward with a "good cause" claim.

Note: **Under no circumstances will the absent parent be contacted**

1. Tell your worker you have a "good cause reason" for not identifying the baby's father.
2. Ask for a **"Good Cause Claim Form."**
3. Complete and return the claim form to your worker.
4. You have **20 days** after filing this claim to submit items of "proof" if they are requested, such as:
 - A written statement from someone who knows of your circumstances, such as a friend or neighbor, or social worker.
 - Medical records or law enforcement records that help establish facts,
 - A written statement from your health care provider concerning your emotional or physical health,
 - Records indicating steps taken to consider adoption of the child
 - Any other supporting information.
5. If you cannot gather information as "proof," your worker is supposed to give you **reasonable help** to get the necessary proof of your statements.
6. If good cause is not found, you have 10 days to cooperate, withdraw your application, or request a hearing.

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