

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS – WHEN APPLYING FOR TANF

**ACLU** Mississippi



Brad, 29, is a single dad of two (ages 4 and 8). After losing his job, he applied for TANF. At his MDHS appointment, he was told to start job search activities immediately or risk losing benefits. Brad explained he had no child care and his car broke down, but received no help or guidance.

## **Brad has the right to:**

- Have his barriers (like lack of child care or transportation) considered. MDHS must help create a realistic plan.
- Request support services to meet work requirements, including:
  - Child care
  - Transportation
  - Job training or education
- Get a clear explanation of all TANF requirements and services.
- Be treated with dignity and respect.
- Ask for a supervisor if his needs aren't met.
- Appeal any decision (including denial or lack of help) within 30 days.



Marcus, 35, is a single father to a 10-year-old. After losing his job, he applied for TANF and submitted all documents. Weeks later, he got a denial letter saying he "failed to comply with work requirements", but no one ever told him what those were.

## **Marcus still has rights:**

- To a written notice explaining the denial.
- To appeal the decision within 30 days.
- To ask questions and get clarification.
- To fix misunderstandings or resubmit documents.