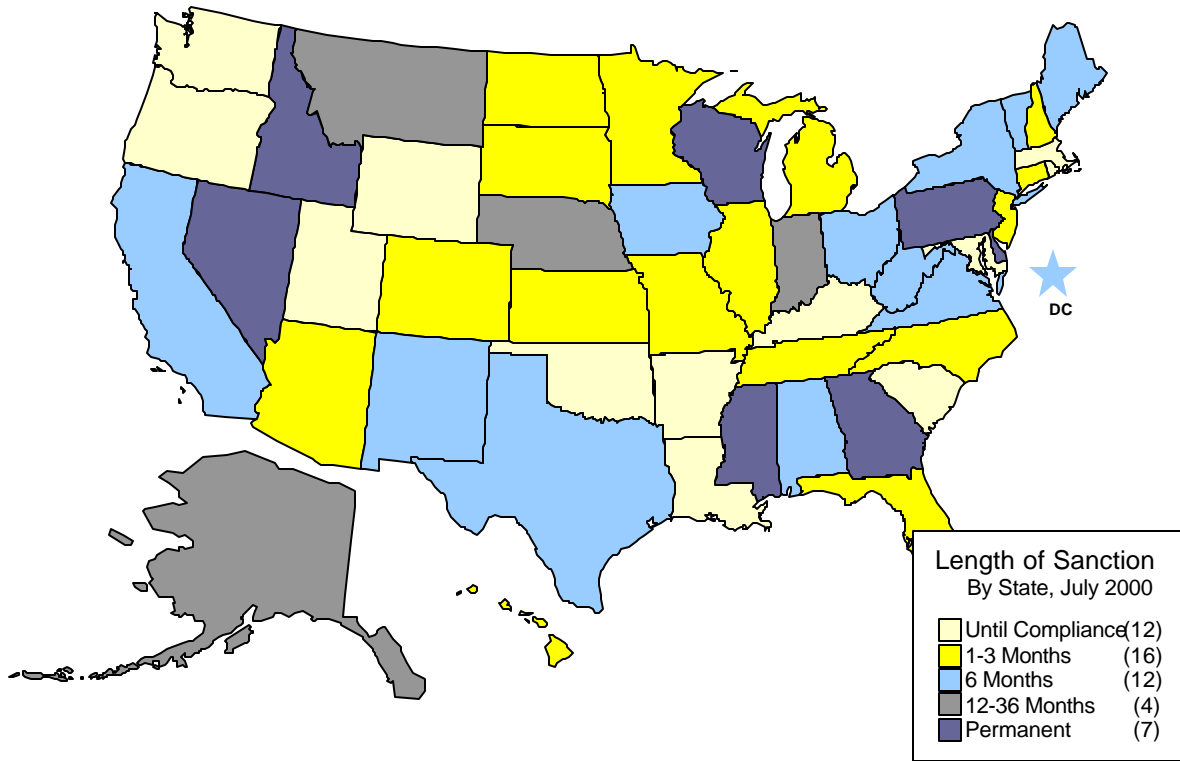




Fast Facts on Welfare Policy

Worst Case Sanctions



For some families, TANF eligibility or TANF benefit levels may be affected by sanctions — particularly sanctions for failure to comply with work-related requirements. Some sanctions reduce the amount of a family’s benefit while others eliminate the benefit entirely. Sanctions also vary in their length. Often, states increase the severity of the sanction based on the number of times and/or the amount of time the individual is non-compliant. The length of the worst-case sanction remained at six months or less in 40 states as of July 2000 (6 months was the standard length of the worst-case sanction before TANF). Four states increased the length of the worst-case sanction to somewhere between 12 and 36 months and in seven states the worst-case sanction was permanent.

Source: [The Welfare Rules Database](#) The Urban Institute’s *Assessing the New Federalism* project. 2000.