

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY STUDIES

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This is one example of a strong protection rule:

Summary: MN Rule on Utility Shut-off Protection and/or Reconnection

as of each October 15,

Reconnection Plan if already Shut off:

If household income is less than 50% of the state median income, agreement to pay not more than 10% of monthly household income each month toward current and past due bills. The Reconnection Plan applies only from October 15 to April 15. Then a new affordable but re-negotiated payment plan is expected. If customer does not make the agreed-upon payments and has a past-due balance on April 15, service could be shut off.

Avoiding Shut off in the Event of Non-Payment

There are several levels of protection from heat shut-off under the Rule.

- "Inability to Pay" (ITP) status is for low income residential customers who set up a payment plan for the rest of the heating season. Customers who are fully paid up or making timely payments under a payment plan as of October 15 qualify for the greatest protection. Customers who have fallen behind on their payments may also qualify for some protections.
- "Ten Percent Plan" (TPP) status is for low income, heat-affected residential customers who pay at least 10% of the household's monthly income, or the full amount of the current month's bill, whichever is less.
- "Payment Schedule" (PS) is for customers at any income level. Customers must pay any past-due bills plus the current bills through next October 15 (unless you and the utility agree on a different date). The payments don't have to be the same each month.

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