

Hotline Focus



q I have taken an AFDC application from a household with the following composition: a mother and her two children, her boyfriend and his child and their common child. Neither parent meets the AFDC work history or incapacity requirement. How do I set up the case?

a If they meet financial and categorical eligibility requirements, the mother and father must have separate AFDC cases for themselves and their respective children. In the case described here, the common child lacks a deprivation factor needed for AFDC. The common child may be eligible for EAEDC. Use the EAEDC-4 to determine financial eligibility for this child. See Section 320.400 of the *EAEDC Policy Manual* and pp. 1-22 through 1-23 of the *EAEDC Worker's Reference Guide* for a description of this process.

q A landlord has called me to complain that his tenant, a recipient in my caseload, has missed a month's rent. What action should I take?

a You should begin the process to authorize mandatory vendor payments for the amount of the rent except in two very specific circumstances. You may determine that the recipient has experienced an unexpected and unusual crisis for which diverting the rent money was appropriate or

that the recipient has a reasonable consumer complaint against the landlord and is withholding (but not diverting) the rent pending resolution on the complaint. See section 306.620 of the *AFDC Policy Manual* for details.

q I have an applicant for AFDC who has made a good cause claim not to cooperate with Child Support. When should I make the child support referral?

a Make the referral only after you have determined that good cause **does not exist** or that CSEU can proceed with no involvement by the recipient. Remember that Section 303.720 of the *AFDC Policy Manual* gives the AFDC worker the final responsibility to determine if an applicant or recipient must cooperate with CSEU.

q How do I determine the value of a car as an asset in AFDC?

a First determine the equity value. Do this by taking the fair market value and determine any outstanding loans or other encumbrances. This is the equity value. For the first vehicle only (the vehicle with the highest equity value) deduct an additional \$1500. The remainder, if any, is an asset for AFDC. See Section 304.120 (G) of the *AFDC Policy Manual*.

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For Food Stamps, the process is different. Refer to the Food Stamp Vehicle Valuation Desk Guide for food stamp instructions.

q In Medicaid, what action should I take on an application if I receive verifications after the 30th day, but have not yet determined the case to be ineligible?

a If you have not yet made a disposition, use the late verifications in making your determination. The date of eligibility continues to be the original application date.

q I have invalidated and requested several MassHealth card replacements for one of my cases. Although cards have been issued each time, the recipient has never received them. What's the problem?

a The most common reason for this situation is that an open Long Term Care segment exists on the MMIS database. When this is the case, MassHealth cards are mailed to the Long Term Care facility. If this is the case, you should complete an LTC Source Input Document (SID) to discharge the LTC segment on MMIS.

Another less common,

reason is that there are two active categories of assistance (e.g. CAT 2 and CAT 3 for the cardholder) but with different addresses for each active case. In this situation, you should determine the correct address and process a TD as appropriate.

q Recently, I had a category 9 case close for Action Reason 72. What does AR 72 mean?

a AR 72 is a system-generated closing used to close a case that is not eligible beyond an initial expedited issuance.

q Can the divorced spouse and children of an institutionalized Medicaid recipient receive a spousal allowance and family maintenance allowance? If there is court ordered alimony or child support, can a deduction for that be allowed from the gross income of the institutionalized person?

a A divorced spouse may not receive a spousal maintenance allowance. See Section 506.220 (B) of the *Medical Assistance Policy Manual*.

Deductions for alimony and child support payments are not allowable; however, court ordered support for a spouse in the community may be allowed in amounts greater than those specified in Section 506.220 (B) (2) of the *Medical Assistance Policy Manual*.

