

From the Hotline

- Q. A teen parent under age 18 is living with her dependent child, her mother and her sisters. The teen parent and her sisters receive TAFDC in the mother's case. The teen does not want her baby included in her mother's grant because she receives child support from the baby's absent father. Can this baby be excluded from the grant?
- A. Yes. The assistance unit must include the dependent child (teen parent), the natural or adoptive parent of the dependent child (the mother), and all siblings of the dependent child (the teen parent's sisters). However, the teen parent's child is not required to be in the assistance unit. See 106 CMR 204.305.
- Q. Under the AFDC program, there was a regulation that required the local office worker to send a 15-day penalty warning notice (WN-1) to a recipient before taking action to sanction for noncooperation with Child Support. I cannot find this requirement in the TAFDC regulations. Does the 15-day penalty warning notice still apply or can a sanction be initiated once DOR notifies me of a recipient's noncooperation?
- A. The penalty warning notice is no longer required. DOR gives a recipient at least two chances to cooperate or claim good cause.
- Q. A stepfather is applying for TAFDC for his stepdaughter. Both natural parents are absent. He is choosing not to be a member of the TAFDC assistance unit. How is his income counted?
- A. Do not count his income. He is neither a natural or adoptive parent of the dependent child nor a spouse of a parent in the assistance unit. Since both natural parents are absent, do not count his income as a stepparent's income. If he chooses to become an eligible grantee, his income and assets would be countable as a member of the assistance unit. See 106 CMR 204.210(D)(1) and 204.320.
- Q. The Department of Employment and Training (DET) has requested that verification of unemployment compensation information be done by phone rather than the recipient bringing the Unemployment Compensation Inquiry (UC-1) form to the DET office. How can this information be verified by a process other than the UC-1 form?

- A. Current unemployment compensation data are displayed on the DET Unemployment Insurance Information inquiry screen. This screen is accessed from the DET Main Menu. DET is displayed as a select option on the ITD Gateway Main Menu. Detailed information and instructions for the DET Unemployment Insurance Information inquiry screen are located in the *Systems User's Guide*, Volume 5: Subsystems, Chapter III: DET.

SSFSP Converted Grantee Ineligible Case Corrections

SSFSP Field Operations Memo 97-73

This memo explains that during the automatic conversion process some household members were incorrectly identified and converted to SSFSP. These cases include:

- household members who were converted to SSFSP and should have remained on FS; or
- household members who were opened on SSFSP and are not eligible for either SSFSP or FS.

This Field Operations Memo provides instructions for reviewing and correcting these cases.