

Hotline Focus

q An eight-year-old child in one of my cases has been made the beneficiary of an irrevocable trust by her grandmother. The trust has a value of \$4000. The child does not receive any income from the trust. How do I evaluate this asset?

a An irrevocable trust is treated as an inaccessible asset and not counted. Send a copy of the trust instrument to the Legal Division who will make a final determination that the trust is, in fact, irrevocable. See Section 304.125(A)(2) of the *AFDC Policy Manual*. Both food stamps and EAEDC also treat irrevocable trusts as inaccessible and hence not counted. Both programs also require sending a copy of the trust instrument to the Legal Division for final determination. The food stamp policy can be found in Section 363.140 (F) of the *Food Stamp Policy Manual* and EAEDC policy is found in Section 321.125 of the *EAEDC Policy Manual*.

q How do I open a case with Action Reason 03 when the grantee is ineligible?

a Open the entire case under Action Reason 03, putting 03 in block 33 as well as for each person in Section IV, the client profile section, including the ineligible grantee if this is a new case.

q I have a food stamp case with a 19-year-old student who is ineligible while in school. During the summer vacation, this student gets a job working more than 20 hours per week. What is the food stamp status of this student?

a During the summer, this person's student status is continued; however, because the student is now employed, the status changes to eligible student and must be included as part of the food stamp household, counting the income. You would review the student status again in the fall when school begins.

q A food stamp applicant received a VC-1 during an initial visit to the office and an appointment for an application interview was made. Has the ten-day clock for denying the application started?



Hotline Focus

a No; while you may give an applicant a VC-1 providing information about which verifications are *generally* needed in the Food Stamp Program, the ten-day clock for denying an application begins when the VC-1 is completed *during the application interview*, which identifies the information actually needed to establish *this* applicant's eligibility.

q Is the Division of Medical Assistance responsible for paying medical transportation reimbursements to recipients who are getting medical services such as methadone treatment?

a Yes, DMA authorizes such payments for recipients of SSI, AFDC, and RRP.

q I am reviewing the application of an individual who was disqualified in another state. What is the effect of the disqualification period on this applicant's eligibility in Massachusetts?

a An individual disqualified from AFDC, RRP and/or food stamps for an Intentional Program Violation *in any US jurisdiction* is not eligible in Massachusetts during the period of ineligibility imposed in the applicant's former state.

q I have a food stamp recipient who, as a condition of occupancy in an elderly housing site, must participate in a meal program. The cost of the meals program (covering only one meal a day) is added to the monthly rent to create a single monthly fee paid to the elderly housing site. Is this cost a **shelter cost**?

a No, the meal fee is not an allowable shelter cost and cannot be included in determining the shelter deduction for this household. The meal fee must be deducted from the total monthly charge when determining expenses.

