

## FYI

### Direct Deposit Marketing

The notice shown below is being enclosed with checks mailed during the first cycle in September. It advises recipients of the advantages of direct deposit.

Workers are reminded to discuss the advantages of direct deposit at each application and eligibility review for cash assistance.

**DIRECT DEPOSIT IS**

**SAFE**  
*Your money is always in your personal account on the day it's due.*

**CONVENIENT**  
*No more waiting in long lines to cash your check.*

**AFFORDABLE**  
*No more costly check-cashing fees or Money Orders to buy.*

**ASK YOUR WORKER HOW TO SIGN UP TODAY!**



Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

## FYI

### Family Cap Reminder

The notice shown below is being sent to recipients during the second cycle in September. It reminds recipients about the family cap rule and the family cap date. It also advises TAFDC recipients to contact their worker for more information concerning this requirement.

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)*  
**Family Cap Reminder**

The Department wants to remind you that you will not receive an increase in your cash benefits for children born more than ten months after the day you first became eligible for TAFDC. However, if your cash benefits were changed from AFDC to TAFDC on 6/30/97, you will not receive an increase for children born more than 10 months after the date of your TAFDC transition review.

This is called the **Family Cap** rule. The rule also applies to teen parents included in their parent's TAFDC cash benefits. This rule does not apply to any child born as a result of rape or incest. Also, there are other reasons why this rule would not apply.

If you do not know your **family cap date** or would like more information about the family cap exceptions or waivers, call your worker. At your request, your worker may refer you to a local MassHealth care provider for information and help with family planning services.

This notice does not apply to you if you are receiving EAEDC. WR-H (9/97)

## From the Hotline

- 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 treat 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. Our regional SSI Office is getting requests from both the local offices and recipients to restore inactive EBT food stamp benefits for SSI food stamp recipients. Field Operations Memo 97-17 states that clients are to go to the local office to sign the *Request to Release Inactive Food Stamp Benefits (EBT-6)* form. Who is responsible for reinstating the EBT food stamp benefits, the local TAO or the SSI Regional Office?

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A. SSI food stamp recipients should go to the local TAO in their area. See Field Operations Memo 94-40. The local TAO is responsible for completing the EBT-6 and obtaining verifications. The local TAO worker must fax a copy of the completed paperwork to the regional SSI Office. If it is a homebound elderly or disabled recipient, the food stamp benefits can be reinstated by mail.

Note: Since cash benefits are handled differently, refer to Field Operations Memo 97-17 for instructions.

Q. Can a recipient use his or her Mass EBT card to make a purchase in a store with the NYCE logo?

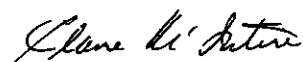
A. Yes. The Mass EBT card may be used at any store that displays the NYCE logo.

request. We also currently have a brochure describing services available to victims of domestic violence. This brochure should be made available to all applicants and recipients and will be revised in the near future to include more information on the availability of waivers. It is important that you make sure that individuals are aware of the availability of domestic violence waivers whenever you take an application or perform an eligibility review, just as you would discuss other program requirements and alternatives.

In addition to the new waivers specific to domestic violence, we continue to have a number of good cause reasons in the area of child support cooperation. It is quite possible that a victim of domestic violence may also have a good cause reason for not cooperating in the child support process. When you are discussing the availability of domestic violence waivers, please be sure, as you should with all recipients, that the individual is aware of the child support good cause criteria.

Domestic violence is much more than a current hot topic in the news. It is a real life trauma which confronts too many of our friends and neighbors as well as the recipients we serve. Individuals who are victims of domestic violence need support in a variety of areas to turn their lives around. I am hopeful that these waivers will provide one necessary support.

Sincerely,



Claire McIntire  
Commissoner