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Governor

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**  
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Secretary

Claire McIntire  
Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 98-28**  
**August 1, 1998**

**TO:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff  
**FROM:**  Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations  
**RE:** Two \$50 Support Payments in August

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**Background** The maximum \$50 support payment is currently issued to a TAFDC assistance unit based on the support payments from the noncustodial parent(s) to DOR (Department of Revenue) from two months prior. DOR has developed a new tracking system for providing support payment information to the Department from the prior month.

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**August Support Payments** To prepare for the implementation of this new system in September, the Department will calculate the maximum \$50 support payment for two months in the month of August. In the month of August only, the Department will issue up to two maximum \$50 support payments - one payment on August 7 if the noncustodial parent(s) made a support payment in June, and another payment on August 15 (August 14 if direct deposit) if the noncustodial parent(s) made a support payment in July. Starting in September, the Department will issue payments based on the noncustodial parent's support payment information from the prior month.

No action is needed by the Transitional Assistance Worker.

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**CHEK Screen** The CHEK screen will display the payments as a code "2" with a date of August 7, 1998 (June payment) and/or August 14, 1998 (for direct deposit) or August 15, 1998 (July payment).

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**Food Stamps** In August, if the recipient receives either or both of the maximum \$50 support payments the food stamp calculation will count this income.

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**Notice**

The following notice will be sent on August 3, 1998 to all former TAFDC recipients closed on or after 5/30/98 and all active TAFDC recipients.

Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance  
Notice about Maximum \$50 Support Payments in August 1998

The Department issues a monthly support payment of up to \$50 to a TAFDC assistance unit when the Department of Revenue (DOR) indicates that the noncustodial parent(s) made a support payment for the dependent child(ren). Before August 1998, the payment was based on information from two months ago. DOR now provides information about a support payment made by the noncustodial parent(s) from one month ago. Therefore, in the month of August **only**, the Department will issue up to two maximum \$50 support payments - one payment on August 7 if the noncustodial parent(s) made a support payment in June, and another payment on August 15 (August 14 for direct deposits) if support was paid in July. Starting in September, the Department will provide payments based on the noncustodial parent's support payment information from the prior month.

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**Questions**

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478.

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