



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Field Operations Memo 2009-37
June 15, 2009

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From:  John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: TAFDC – FY '08 Audit Findings

Overview

The Single Audit Act of 1984 established requirements for audits of States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments that administer Federal financial assistance programs. Each year as a result of this act, the Department is subject to the Single State Audit conducted by an impartial auditing firm. It is the responsibility of this firm to ensure that the Department is in compliance with the requirements of this federal act.

As part of the Single State Audit, all facets of the Department are examined, including compliance with Federal/State policy and procedures.

The overall report from the auditors was very favorable; however some findings were noted.

This Field Operations Memo:

- describes the FY '08 audit findings which occurred as the result of misapplication of policy/procedure;
 - reminds case managers of existing policy/procedures to follow in these instances; and
 - serves as a reminder that the Training Unit is available for staff who would like a refresher on any topic including those discussed in this memo.
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Child Support Cooperation Requirements: As a condition of eligibility, TAFDC clients must cooperate in establishing paternity, unless good cause exists.

Audit Finding Based on the audit findings, it is clear that case managers understand the process as the audit identified cases that had been sanctioned for failure to cooperate with the child support requirements (106 CMR 203.700). In two instances the audit did find however, that in cases with multiple sanctions, either the child support sanction had not been applied to the case in a timely manner, or had been inadvertently removed. Case managers are reminded that upon notification of non cooperation from the Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement Unit (DOR-CSEU) the grantee must be removed from the grant, timely, and that upon notification by DOR-CSEU of cooperation, to be careful to remove the appropriate sanction. Please see *A User's Guide*, Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON, Chapter XIX, Section D for sanction procedures.

Drug-related Felonies Requirements: Unless exempt, individuals convicted of a drug felony after August 22, 1996 are ineligible for TAFDC for 12 consecutive months following the date of release. See 106 CMR 701.110 (D).

Audit Finding

One audit finding resulted from the misapplication of this regulation. At application, the applicant provided the case manager with a certificate of release from a penal institution with a release date within 12 months preceding the application for TAFDC. Had the case manager requested documentation relating to the incarceration, the case would have been denied because the applicant had been incarcerated for a drug felony.

Case managers are reminded to always request additional documentation if an applicant provides documentation or otherwise indicates (s)he had been recently released from a penal institution.

Questions If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.
