

From the Forms File

Revised Forms

02-559-0508-05

DVWR (Rev. 3/2008)

Request for a Waiver of TAFDC Program Requirement(s) Due to Domestic Violence

This form has been shortened, reformatted and revised. Please discard old versions and use the revised version of this form. The Spanish version will soon be available.

18-440-0408-05

RMN-1 (Rev. 4/2008)

Notice of Returned Mail

This form has been revised. This form is also available in the *Online Forms* section of *Policy Online - Cross Program*. The Spanish version will soon be available. Please refer to Field Operations Memo 2008-22.

From the Hotline

- Q.** Are the legally obligated child support payments my food stamp client is making on behalf of his children living apart from the food stamp household excluded from his countable income, or are they considered a deductible expense?
- A.** Once verified, any legally obligated child support payments made by your food stamp client are excluded from his countable income when performing the gross income test of eligibility. For more information on this topic, refer to 106 CMR 363.230(O).

Also, once verified, any legally obligated child support payments made by your client are deducted as an expense from the gross income when determining the food stamp benefit amount. These legally obligated child support payments can include:

- arrearage amounts,
- health insurance, or
- third party obligations (e.g., landlord or utility company).

Refer to 106 CMR 364.400(E) for more information.

For information on how to enter child support payment information in BEA-CON, refer to *A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEA-CON*, Chapter XIV-G.

- Q.** How does my client's child support payment information get verified?
- A.** Documentation of your client's legal obligation to pay child support, the amount of the obligation and the actual amount of his payments is a food stamp requirement. Below are some examples of acceptable verifications.
- Your client's obligation to pay child support and the legally obligated amount of the payments can be verified by court or administrative order, or other legally enforceable agreement.
 - His actual payment(s) can be verified through DOR, or by canceled checks, wage withholding statements, verification of withholding from unemployment

compensation or statements from the custodial parent regarding direct payments or third party payments.

Note: Documents verifying your client's legal obligation cannot be used as proof of your client's actual monthly child support payments.

Refer to 106 CMR 361.610(J) for more details.

Q. The most recent version of the Landlord Verification Form (LL/VER Rev. 1/2008) no longer includes questions regarding household member information. Must my food stamp client verify household composition?

A. No. As long as the household member information reported by your client is not questionable, verification is unnecessary.

If verifying food stamp household composition becomes necessary, refer to 106 CMR 361.610(K) and 106 CMR 366.320(C) for more details.

To be considered questionable, information must be inconsistent with previous statements made by the client, inconsistent with other information on the application or inconsistent with information known or reported to the Department.

For more details on what constitutes questionable information in the Food Stamp Program, refer to 106 CMR 361.620.

Treatment of the Federal Economic Stimulus Payment

All
Field Operations Memo 2008-18

Starting in May, the federal government began issuing an Economic Stimulus payment to many taxpayers pursuant to the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. Some people who are not normally required to file taxes, including low-income workers, recipients of Social Security benefits, recipients of certain Veterans benefits and recipients of certain Railroad Retirement benefits may be eligible as well, if they file a federal tax return.

Some TAFDC, EAEDC, EA and food stamp applicants and clients may qualify for and receive the stimulus payment.

This memo issues instructions on how to treat the economic stimulus payment for DTA program purposes.

