

From the Hotline

Q. A woman who is currently receiving TAFDC for herself and her children came into our office to report that she left her apartment due to domestic violence and is currently living with her children at her sister's home. After explaining our Department's services and waivers for domestic violence victims and referring this client to a Domestic Violence Specialist, what procedures should I follow on BEACON?

A. To ensure the proper administration of this case on BEACON, go to the Domestic Violence window in the Program Administration workflow. In this case, note that domestic violence exists in the AU, that the abuser is not living in the home and whether or not there is a heightened level of security on the case.

Refer to *A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON*, Chapter IV-A, page 6 for further details.

Q. Who determines whether or not it is best to employ the heightened level of security on a case?

A. This decision is made by the client. A higher level of security is often beneficial in establishing an immediate alert to Department staff about the risk of domestic violence. But once the higher level of security is established, the AU Manager can no longer speak with the client over the telephone.

There may be a number of considerations that need to be taken into account before the final decision on heightened security is made. A Domestic Violence Specialist can go over the advantages and possible risks of a heightened level of security with the client.

NOTE: Remember that even if a heightened level of security is not chosen, our regulations ensure that all recipients are guaranteed confidentiality, per 106 CMR 701.320 and 106 CMR 100 through 108 Fair Information Practices.

Q. What are some of the factors that go into determining whether or not a heightened level of security is appropriate for a domestic violence case?

A. Choosing the higher security level may necessitate more frequent client visits to the TAO because the AU Manager can no longer speak with the client directly over the telephone. If the abuser also happens to be familiar with the location or neighborhood surrounding the TAO, choosing a heightened level of security may put the client at further risk.

TAFDC Clothing Allowance

TAFDC
State Letter 1328
Field Operations Memo
2007-43

The Department will pay a nonrecurring clothing allowance in September 2007 for TAFDC clients. The clothing allowance is \$150 per client under the age of 19. The clothing allowance is prorated for clients eligible in September 2007 but who have a start date after September 1, 2007.

“Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision.”

Stevie Wonder