

From the Hotline

- Q I know that PACES can automatically prorate the income and shelter expenses of a State Supplemental Food Stamp Program (SSFSP) recipient(s) in a combination case (FS/SSFSP). Does PACES also prorate other expenses such as dependent care expenses and child support payments?
- A No. PACES does NOT automatically prorate other allowable expenses such as dependent care and child support payments for an SSFSP recipient in a combination case. Other allowable expenses (other than shelter expenses) must be prorated manually and the manually prorated amount entered as a deduction in FIW1 Block #9 for Dependent Care expenses or FIW1 Block #10 for Child Support expenses. (See 106 CMR 365.520 (B)(3).)
- Q How is the asset value of “leased vehicles” determined for TAFDC and food stamp benefits? Would the down payment, equity or fair market value be considered as an asset or does the leased vehicle have no countable value for TAFDC and food stamp purposes?
- A There is no countable asset value for leased vehicles for TAFDC and food stamp benefit purposes. Fair market or equity value would not be counted since the vehicle is not owned or registered in the recipient’s name. The down payment is noncountable since it is spent and no longer available to the recipient.
- Q How long is a drug felon disqualified from food stamp benefits?
- A According to food stamp policy at 106 CMR367.800, an individual is ineligible for food stamp benefits if he or she is convicted under federal or state law of a felony which includes as an element the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance and the conviction is for conduct that occurred after 8/22/96. ***These individuals are permanently ineligible for food stamp benefits.***
- Q Can funeral and burial expenses be approved for a child born after the family cap?
- A Yes. State law requires us to pay for funerals and burials for indigent persons. All the requirements of 106 CMR 705.700 and 705.710 must be met.
- Q A food stamp recipient receives a Social Security check for his child who is not part of the food stamp household since the child is a resident of an institution. Is the Social Security countable to the food stamp household?

- A Any portion of the Social Security income which is not used for the care and maintenance of the child would be countable to the food stamp household. The household must verify the amounts used for the care and maintenance of the child.
- Q I have an NPA food stamp case in which one of the household members is physically disabled. They own one vehicle used to transport the disabled household member to medical visits. Can this vehicle be excluded?
- A Yes. If an NPA food stamp household has a disabled member requiring transportation, that household is entitled to a vehicle exclusion. The vehicle does not have to have special equipment or be used primarily by or for the transportation of the physically disabled household member. (See 106CMR 363.140 (C) (5).)

