

FYI

Eligibility for Noncitizens

The Office for Civil Rights has raised concerns that some noncitizens are being discouraged from applying for TAFDC and Food Stamp benefits due to unclear messages regarding their families' eligibility for benefits and potential reporting to immigration authorities.

- 1) Please remind applicants during the application process (during alienage and/or SSN questions) that even if they are not personally eligible for benefits due to their alien status, other family members may still receive benefits.
- 2) Once an individual indicates an inability or unwillingness to provide verification of immigration status, all efforts to obtain documentation regarding immigration status must cease.
- 3) Likewise, when asking for Social Security Number information, if an applicant indicates an inability or unwillingness to provide, or apply for a SSN due to immigration status, further efforts to obtain documentation regarding the SSN shall cease.
- 4) Also, DTA will NOT report noncitizens to the immigration authorities EXCEPT in the rare instance that they have provided us with an order of deportation. In no case, will an AU Manager have the authority to make such a report.

Please note that TAFDC regulations and the User's Guide will be updated soon to reflect these changes.



FYI

MassHealth Program Changes

The Division of Medical Assistance has announced two changes to the MassHealth program. These changes concern new MassHealth coverage for certain women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, and a change in policy regarding co-payments for certain MassHealth services.

MassHealth Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program

As of January 1, 2004, the Division is expanding MassHealth coverage to qualified women who have been diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through a federally funded screening program that is operated in Massachusetts by the Department of Public Health's Women's Health Network. This coverage will be provided through the MassHealth Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP).

To be eligible for the MassHealth BCCTP, women must:

- be under the age of 65;
- be screened or have received diagnostic services for breast or cervical