

Hotline Focus

q I have taken an application from an unmarried woman in her last trimester of pregnancy, with no other children. She lives with her boyfriend, the father of the unborn child, who is not working. Can this applicant be eligible for AFDC?

a Yes, provided she or her boyfriend verifies that he or she meets the definition of an unemployed or incapacitated parent. This case, if approved, is for the pregnant woman only and must be redetermined as soon as the child is born. See Sections 303.110 and 303.340 of the *AFDC Policy Manual*.

q I undiverted a case, expecting that the diverted check would be issued to the recipient. Subsequent checks were mailed to the recipient but the recipient has not received the original diverted check; why not?

a To issue a diverted check, you must use the exact second cycle check date found in Appendix E of the *Systems User's Guide*. Volume I, PACES. If the date is not correct, subsequent checks will issue, but the original diverted check will not.

q I have a food stamp applicant currently residing in a homeless shelter. Is this person eligible for food stamps?

a Yes, Section 361.240 (B)(5) of the *Food Stamp Policy Manual* establishes that persons living in public or private nonprofit homeless shelters, if otherwise eligible, are eligible for food stamps. This regulation is an exception to the "institution" rule, which denies food stamp eligibility to residents of institutions receiving over 50 percent of their meals.

Keep in mind that residents of certain elderly housing; drug or alcohol treatment centers; group living arrangements; and shelters for battered women and their children may also meet the exception to the institution rule. See Section 361.240 (B) of the *Food Stamp Policy Manual*.

q My client received an EA placement in a shelter. She has been there for 12 months; do we continue to provide EA?

a The client must reapply for EA when the 12-month period is over. Provided she is determined eligible for EA, you should continue to provide shelter.



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q I have taken an AFDC application from a woman on SSI. She lives with her boyfriend. She has one child from a previous marriage and they have one child in common. The boyfriend is employed full-time. Who, if anyone in this family, may be eligible for AFDC?

a Both children have deprivation factors (absence for the child of the previous marriage and Mom's SSI status for the other child), and they are half-siblings so both children must be included in the same assistance unit. Therefore, the boyfriend who is the father of one of the dependent children must also be included in the assistance unit and his income must be counted.

q My client has just been approved for Medicaid, but has not received a MassHealth card. Why not?

a Usually, this happens because a card already exists from a prior case and is recorded on the system in status 1. Once a new case is opened, the system would record the old card as valid again and the client can use it. If the client no longer has her old card, she must request a replacement from the agency (DPW or DMA) in which her current primary case is active.

