



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
www.mass.gov/masshealth



Eligibility Operations Memo 08-05
April 15, 2008

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Russ Kulp, Director, MassHealth Operations

RE: **New Immigration Status for Iraqi and Afghan Immigrants**

Introduction

Due to changes in federal law, certain Iraqi and Afghan aliens may qualify for MassHealth programs as Qualified Aliens.

Effective December 26, 2007, Afghan aliens who have been granted special immigrant status under Section 101(a)(27)p of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) pursuant to Section 525 of Public Law 110-161 will be eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees for a period not to exceed six months.

Effective January 28, 2008, Iraqi aliens who have been granted special immigrant status under Section 101(a)(27) of the INA pursuant to Section 1244 of Public Law 110-181 or Section 525 of Public Law 110-161 will be eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under Section 207 of the INA for a period not to exceed eight months.

**Iraqi and Afghan
Special
Immigrants**

Generally, an alien is considered an Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant if he or she is a citizen or national of Iraq or Afghanistan and was or is employed by or on behalf of the United States government on or after March 23, 2003, for not less than one year and has experienced a serious, ongoing threat as a consequence of his or her employment by the United States government. Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants may also include the spouse, widow, and unmarried children (under age 21) of the U.S.-employed individual.

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**MassHealth
Eligibility**

For the purposes of determining eligibility for MassHealth, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants should be considered Qualified Aliens as of the date he or she was granted special immigrant status (that is, the date he or she was admitted to the U.S. as an Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant).

An Iraqi Special Immigrant should be considered a Qualified Alien for no more than eight months from the date of entry into the U.S. An Afghan Special Immigrant should be considered a Qualified Alien for no more than six months from the date of entry into the U.S.

For Iraqi and Afghan immigrants who acquire Special Immigrant status while in the United States, the date of eligibility for benefits and services (the "date of entry") begins on the date that the immigrant was granted Special Immigrant status. There will be cases of Iraqis or Afghans who were paroled into the U.S. or entered the U.S. in some other status and, while in the U.S., made application for and were granted Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant status.

Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants must meet the universal, categorical, and financial eligibility requirements of MassHealth.

After the designated period, eligibility must be redetermined based upon the immigration status and documentation submitted by the applicant or member.

Documentation

Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants must confirm their status and date of entry through appropriate documentation. A chart of acceptable documentation is attached to this memo.

**Roles and
Responsibilities**

Central Processing Unit (CPU)/MassHealth Enrollment Centers (MEC):
Upon receipt of documentation indicating Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant status, an eligibility worker at the CPU or a MEC must look at the date of entry to determine if the applicant or member is eligible for the special immigrant eligibility period.

The individual should be coded "Refugee" in the MA21 QAC screen if the applicant or member is

- an Iraqi Special Immigrant and the date of entry into the U.S. is less than eight months before the current date; or
 - an Afghan Special Immigrant and the date of entry into the U.S. is less than six months before the current date.
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**Roles and
Responsibilities**
(cont.)

After processing the immigration documentation, a copy must be sent to

MassHealth Operations
Policy and Implementation Unit
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

Central Office:

Central Office staff will track special immigrants and redetermine eligibility at the end of the eligibility period (six or eight months, as appropriate).

Questions

If you have any questions about this memo, please have your CPU or MEC designee contact the Policy Hotline.

**Acceptable Documentation for Iraqi and Afghan
 Special Immigrants**

The following documents will confirm both status and date of entry for Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants:

Applicant	Documentation
Principal applicant Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant	Iraqi or Afghan passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been admitted under IV (immigrant visa) Category SI1 and DHS stamp or notation on passport or I-94 showing date of entry
Spouse of principal applicant Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant	Iraqi or Afghan passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been admitted under IV (immigrant visa) Category SI2 and DHS stamp or notation on passport or I-94 showing date of entry
Unmarried child (under age 21) of Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant	Iraqi or Afghan passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been admitted under IV (immigrant visa) Category SI3 and DHS stamp or notation on passport or I-94 showing date of entry
Principal applicant Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant Principal adjusting status in the U.S.	DHS Form I-551 ("green card") showing Iraqi or Afghan nationality (or Iraqi or Afghan passport), with an IV (immigrant visa) code of SI6
Spouse of principal applicant Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant in P6 Category	DHS Form I-551 ("green card") showing Iraqi or Afghan nationality (or Iraqi or Afghan passport), with an IV (immigrant visa) code of SI7
Unmarried child (under age 21) of Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant in P6 Category	DHS Form I-551 ("green card") showing Iraqi or Afghan Nationality (or Iraqi or Afghan passport), with an IV (immigrant visa) code of SI9