

From the Hotline

Q. A teen parent under age 18 is living with her dependent child, her mother and her sisters. The teen parent and her sisters receive TAFDC in the mother's case. The teen does not want her baby included in her mother's grant because she receives child support from the baby's father. Can this baby be excluded from the grant?

A. Yes. The teen parent's mother's assistance unit must include the dependent child (teen parent), the natural or adoptive parent of the dependent child (the mother) and all siblings of the dependent child (the teen parent's sisters). However, the teen parent's child is not required to be in the TAFDC assistant unit, but must be included in the food stamp assistance unit and all income considered. See 106 CMR 204.305 and 361.200.

Q. A food stamp recipient's mortgage payment is \$250.00 per month. He is paying an additional \$250.00 per month on the principal amount. What is the allowed food stamp shelter cost?

- A. Only the \$250.00 billed for the monthly mortgage expense is allowed. The household is under no obligation to pay the additional amount on the principal.
- Q. A TAFDC recipient lives in a development which received a mortgage subsidy referred to as 236 housing. Is the recipient entitled to the rent allowance?
- A. Yes. An assistance unit gets a rent allowance when living in private housing in a complex that received a federal subsidy (236 or 221(D)(3)) or a Massachusetts subsidy (section 13A) and neither the AU or someone it shares cost with uses a Section 8 certificate or has an MRVP lease or occupancy agreement. See 106 CMR 705.910.
- Q. I have a case that consists of a mom who is an undocumented noncitizen with no income and her two children. One child is receiving TAFDC and the other child is a family cap child. The children are receiving food stamp benefits. Do I prorate the household shelter expense because the bills are in the mother's name?
- A. No, because the mother has no income. Shelter cost must be prorated only if the person who is paying or being billed for household expenses has income, either earned or unearned. See Field Operations Memo 2000-20.
- Q. Does noncitizen deeming apply to any state-funded benefits programs?
- A. No. Noncitizen deeming does not apply to any state-funded benefits program, including SSFSP or STAFDC. See 106 CMR 360.030(G) and 203.680(C).



COMMUNICATION is the KEY