

From the Hotline

If you have any questions on this column or other policy and procedural material, please have your Hotline designee call the **Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478**.

- Q.** Is a birth certificate a required document for SNAP eligibility?
- A.** A birth certificate is only one of many types of verification sources that can be used to document SNAP eligibility requirements. For example, when establishing identity, remember that any document that reasonably establishes identity must be accepted, and no requirement for a specific type of document may be imposed. See 106 CMR 361.610 for more information on verifying identity in SNAP. In addition, see 106 CMR 361.640 for more general information on the different types of acceptable verification sources in SNAP and 106 CMR 361.650 on responsibilities for obtaining verifications, including offering assistance to households in obtaining verifications.
- Q.** Is a birth certificate a required document for EAEDC and TAFDC eligibility?
- A.** While the birth certificate is a preferred method for verifying relationship in TAFDC, it is only one of many other acceptable forms of verification. See 106 CMR 203.585 for more information. In addition, see 106 CMR 702.340 for more general information on the different methods of verifying required eligibility factors in the TAFDC and EAEDC programs; these include original documents, collateral contacts and self-declarations. Also, see 106 CMR 702.310 for responsibilities for obtaining verifications, including offering assistance when an applicant or client is unable to obtain the required verifications.

Diversity Quote

“ The price of the democratic way of life is a growing appreciation of people's differences, not merely as tolerable, but as the essence of a rich and rewarding human experience.”

Jerome Nathanson