

## From the Forms File

### New

The following forms are now available in Spanish.

09-084-0498-05

*QCHSMAL (S) (4/98)*

*SSA Quarters of Coverage History  
Match Appointment Letter*

*Fraud Poster WF-1 (S)*

02-704-0398-05

*Fraud Poster WF-2 (S)*

02-707-0398-05

### Obsolete

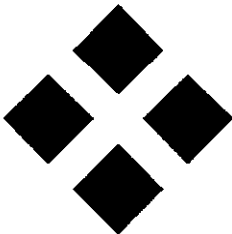
02-193-0795-05

*TAFDC-3*

*Direct Deposit Waiver*

### Voter Registration Forms

Reminder: To order Voter Registration Forms, call the Secretary of State - Elections Division at (617) 727-2828 or 1-800-462-8683.



## From the Hotline

- Q. Can a recipient still use the paper food stamp coupons that he or she received prior to EBT conversion?
- A. Yes, USDA regulations state that paper food stamp coupons must be accepted by all vendors that accept EBT food stamp benefits.
- Q. How is Type FS income of an SSFSP member entered for proration purposes?
- A. If an SSFSP member is sanctioned, enter the Type FS income as Income Type OU with code 14 in the 30 1/3 block. The code 14 entry will alert PACES that the income is from an SSFSP member for proration purposes.
- Q. How is roomer/boarder income of an SSFSP member entered for proration purposes?
- A. To prorate roomer/boarder income of an SSFSP member, the income must be entered as Income Type OU with code 14 in the 30 1/3 block. The code 14 entry will alert PACES that the income is from an SSFSP member for proration purposes.
- Q. I sanctioned a teen parent for failure to go to school and am now ready to close the case. Since this is a progressive sanction, do I enter Type FS income for both the teen parent and her child?
- A. No, enter \$86.00 for the sanctioned teen parent only. Whenever there is a progressive sanction, the Type FS income follows the sanctioned household member(s) so that the food stamp allotment does not increase as a result of the cash program penalty.
- Q. I have a family on monthly reporting because the 18-year-old daughter was working. The daughter has now graduated and is no longer a member of the assistance unit. Is this assistance unit required to continue on monthly reporting?
- A. No, there is no member in the assistance unit with earned income or a recent history of earned income. Systems Customer Service Center can change the R code to an E code. See 106 CMR 702.930 (A)(1).

Q. What is the definition of a spouse for purposes of crediting 40 qualifying quarters to a noncitizen for Food Stamp Program eligibility and which quarters can be credited?

A. A spouse is defined as either of two individuals

(1) who are legally married to one another; or

(2) who are living together and holding themselves out to the community as a husband and wife by representing themselves as such to relatives, friends, neighbors and tradespeople.

- Only quarters earned during the marriage can be credited to the noncitizen.
- A widowed spouse can be credited with the qualifying quarters of the deceased spouse.
- If the marriage ended in divorce, qualifying quarters of the former spouse cannot be credited to the noncitizen.

**Note:** A noncitizen credited with the qualifying quarters of his or her spouse **while married** can remain eligible if the couple subsequently divorces.

See 106 CMR 361.200(A)(1).

Q. What is the definition of a parent for purposes of crediting qualifying quarters to a noncitizen for Food Stamp Program eligibility and which quarters can be credited?

A. A parent is defined as the natural, adoptive or stepparent of the noncitizen.

- The noncitizen can be credited with the quarters of a natural or adoptive parent up to the noncitizen's 18th birthday (including quarters earned prior to the noncitizen's birth).
- The noncitizen can be credited with the quarters earned by the stepparent during the stepparent relationship up to the noncitizen's 18th birthday.

See 106 CMR 361.200(A)(3).

## FYI

### TAFDC Potential to Graduate Report and EAEDC Student Report

Transitional Assistance Offices will no longer receive the TAFDC Potential to Graduate Report and the EAEDC Student Report because these potential error areas are now covered by PRISM II alerts. It is important that Transitional Assistance Workers check their PRISM II alerts carefully for the weekly sweeps that identify:

- TAFDC dependents who turn 18 and 19 years of age, and
- EAEDC grantees and dependent children who turn 18 and students turning 21.

Determine the current eligibility for those identified by the PRISM II Alert and initiate any necessary action on the case. Instructions on the PRISM II alerts are found in the *PRISM II User's Guide*, Chapter II, Alerts.