



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance*

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**Online Guide Transmittal 2019-28
June 13, 2019**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From: Paul Sutliff, Assistant Commissioner for Programs and Field Operations
Re: Cross Program: RSDI Garnishments

Overview

Many DTA clients receive RSDI as a source of income. To ensure program integrity and streamline verification processes, this information is updated in BEACON through the Beneficiary & Earnings Data Exchange (BENDEX) with the Social Security Administration.

Anticipated for June 8, 2019, BENDEX will update case records with the gross RSDI amount instead of the net RSDI amount. This will ensure accurate case files and benefit calculations when garnishments or other deductions are present in a case.

You must not touch the RSDI amount when the case is pending as the correct gross amount has been batched in. Existing cases will be automatically recalculated and released. However, if a case is pending at application, Recertification, Interim Report, or Revaluation, the case will not automatically recalculate and release. These cases will pend until the caseworker manually wraps the case.

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of systems and procedural changes to support the accurate recording of RSDI and garnishments.

**Summary of
Systems
Enhancements**

A number of enhancements are being made to the BENDEX exchange and BEACON in conjunction with streamlined procedures for garnishments:

- gross RSDI amounts will be batched into BEACON instead of the net amount;
- RSDI garnishments verified as child support will satisfy the requirement of proof of being legally obligated; and
- additional Garnishment types will be added to BEACON.

Conversion

The majority of cases with RSDI and garnishments will be automatically updated. Some cases will require a desk review. A report will be provided under separate cover for staff to review and ensure garnishment(s) are appropriately categorized.

Clients will receive a one time notice advising them of the change as well as a standard EBC notice if there is a change in benefits, as appropriate.

**Revised Online
Guide Pages**

Topic: Cross Programs
Book: SSA
Page: SSA Data

Topic: SNAP
Book: Expenses and Deductions
Chapter: Health Insurance/Medical Expenses
Subchapter: Health Insurance Expenses
Page: Entering Health Insurance Data in BEACON

Topic: SNAP
Book: Expenses and Deductions
Chapter: Child Support Expenses
Page: Child Support Expense Deduction

Topic: SNAP
Book: Expenses and Deductions
Chapter: Child Support Expenses
Page: Entering Child Support Expenses Data

Topic: SNAP
Book: Expenses and Deductions
Chapter: Child Support Expenses
Page: Child Support Expense Examples

**New Online
Guide Page**

Topic: SNAP
Book: Expenses and Deductions
Page: Garnishments from Social Security
Benefits (RSDI & SSI)

**New Temporary
Procedures
Page**

TP2019-1: PASS Income Not Garnished from RSDI
* link to [Policy Online/Temporary Procedures page](#)

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email the DTA Procedural Issues Mailbox.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
