

From the Hotline

Q. A recipient's dependent child has been voluntarily placed in a DSS foster home for a temporary period while she is recuperating from an illness. DSS has provided a statement that the mother still has responsibility for her child's needs. Can we continue to aid this child in the recipient's AU?

A. Yes. This child is considered temporarily absent and you should continue to aid the child in the recipient's AU as long as the recipient demonstrates that she continues to exercise responsibility for the day-to-day care and control. Care and control can be exercised by any of the following. (This list is not meant to be all-inclusive.)

- being responsible for decisions about health care issues, clothing and personal items;
- actively participating in the planning discussions of school requirements for the child;
- keeping a room ready for visits from the child; and
- remaining in close contact with the child.

However, the child may not be included if: (a) the child has been removed from the household pursuant to a court order after a care and protection hearing, or (b) this is the only child in the grantee's AU and the child has been removed by DSS in accordance with DSS procedures. See 106 CMR 203.595.

Q. Can an EA applicant who meets the eligibility criteria receive EA if her TAFDC AU was terminated because she received a lump sum payment and will not be eligible to receive TAFDC again for the next 43 months?

A. The applicant may be eligible to receive EA. We cannot apply the TAFDC lump sum policy to EA policy because of the different income guidelines and eligibility requirements. However, since she is not currently a TAFDC recipient, she must be asset-eligible. Any portion of the lump sum which she still has would be countable unless it is otherwise excluded. The EA asset limit is \$2,500.

Q. I have taken an application for food stamp benefits in which a member of the household, but not head of household, has to wear a prison bracelet. Is he eligible to be included in the food stamp AU?

A. Yes. This member can be included in the food stamp AU if he meets all the eligibility criteria. Home detention does not render an applicant ineligible to participate in the food stamp program.

Note: TAFDC or EAEDC applicants or recipients detained under home detention by the courts' penal system are ineligible to receive TAFDC or EAEDC benefits.

