

From the Hotline

- Q. My client has failed to provide verification of the school her child is attending. What should I do?
- A. Only the dependent child subject to Learnfare for whom the required verification was not provided, should be closed. If the grantee submits a completed School Verification Notice (SV-1) or other verification of the school the child is attending within 30 days of the termination date, the dependent child must be re-opened. See 106 CMR 203.900
- Q. A woman is applying for assistance to help pay the burial expense for her deceased husband. How do I count her assets?
- A. The assets of a decedent and a financially responsible relative, such as a spouse, must be less than \$1,500.00 to qualify for funeral and burial expenses. Any assets available from the decedent or a financially responsible relative must be deducted from the maximum allowable cost (\$1,500.00). The Department then pays the balance, if any, up to \$1,100.00. See 106 CMR 705.700-705.710.
- Q. Do we exempt from the Food Stamp Work Program requirements a food stamp recipient with refugee status who attends a training program operated by the Office of Refugee Resettlement?
- A. Refugees participating in recognized refugee training programs at least half-time are exempt from the Food Stamp Work Program requirements. Such participants are exempt as students enrolled half-time in a recognized training program. Refugee training programs, approved, funded or operated by the Office of Resettlement are recognized training programs. See 106 CMR 362.310(B)(8) and 362.320(B)(8).
- Q. A mother receives TAFDC for herself and two children. A third child receives SSI and child support. Is the child support countable when determining the mother's TAFDC grant?
- A. No. Any income of an SSI household member is noncountable. Therefore, the child support income received on behalf of the child receiving SSI is not countable for TAFDC eligibility. See 106 CMR 204.250.

- Q. Does a pregnant woman applying for EA have to verify that the expected child is due within 120 days of the date of application, just like a pregnant woman applying for TAFDC does?
- A. No. Unlike TAFDC, a pregnant woman applying for EA is eligible to apply any time during her pregnancy.

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Checks

All State Letter 1212

The revised CORI regulations:

- replace the mandatory disqualification category of crimes with a lifetime presumptive disqualification category;
- allow further review of candidates with criminal records to be conducted by certain qualified mental health professionals;
- ensure that questions regarding prior convictions are consistent with the Massachusetts General Laws; and
- modify the list of crimes that fall under the disqualification categories.