

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.** My TAFDC applicant reported that he recently lost his job. During the application interview, he also said that he still holds the lease on a 2007 truck that he had been using to get to and from his job. Since this applicant does not currently own his vehicle, is it considered a noncountable asset?
- A.** Yes. As long as your client does not own the vehicle, then the asset is not counted. For more information on vehicles and countable assets in the TAFDC Program, refer to 106 CMR 204.120. In SNAP, TAFDC families are considered categorically eligible households, and therefore their assets are not taken into consideration when determining eligibility, according to 106 CMR 365.180. (For households that are not categorically eligible, vehicles are noncountable assets, according to 106 CMR 363.140.)
- Q.** My TAFDC applicant has explained that she was recently the victim of domestic violence and has moved out of her abuser's home. When she came in to apply, she also reported that she and her abuser co-own a car and a savings account. Her combined assets exceed the \$2,500 asset limit. Are these assets countable?
- A.** It depends. Assets are not counted in the TAFDC Program if they are considered inaccessible, according to 106 CMR 204.125. For a victim of domestic violence, assets are considered inaccessible if it is documented that attempting to access the assets puts the client at risk of further domestic violence. This determination is made only after the case manager has conferred with the client as well as his or her domestic violence specialist.
- Q.** When the case manager is determining whether or not the assets of a domestic violence victim are inaccessible, must the client also request a good cause waiver of a TAFDC Program requirement due to domestic violence, as described in 106 CMR 203.110?
- A.** No. Although case managers must explain the good cause waiver process to TAFDC clients who are victims of domestic violence, requesting such a waiver is not a requirement for the client when the case manager is determining whether or not a domestic violence victim's assets are accessible.
- Q.** What is considered acceptable documentation when determining whether or not a TAFDC client's assets are inaccessible due to domestic violence concerns?
- A.** In consultation with the domestic violence specialist, the case manager must provide examples of the types of documentation that will verify the previous domestic violence as well as the risk of future domestic violence. These include records from: domestic violence programs, the courts, law enforcement and/or the medical community. However, if these records are unavailable, a signed statement from the individual is acceptable. Refer to 106 CMR 203.110(D) for more information on acceptable forms of documentation.