Keeping Your MassHealth Benefits After Incarceration



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Overview

You may receive a notice in the mail that your MassHealth eligibility cannot be determined without providing further information about your incarceration status. We've attached some helpful information on why this may happen and what to do if it happens to you.

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Applying for MassHealth After Incarceration

To apply for MassHealth coverage, individuals fill out the <u>Massachusetts Application for Health and Dental Coverage and Help Paying Costs</u>.

MassHealth will not provide coverage to people who are incarcerated. In the application, they will determine if you are incarcerated in Section 1, Question 20: "Is anyone on this application in prison or jail?" See below.

20.	Is anyone on this application in prison or jail? Yes No Please select No if this person will be released in the next 60 days.
	If Yes, who? Enter the name here:
	If Yes , is this person awaiting trial? Yes No

YOUR ANSWER MATTERS.

If you check the **YES** box on Section 1, Question 20, **you will be** *denied* **MassHealth benefits based on your incarceration status.**

• **Note:** If you are no longer incarcerated or will be released in the next 60 days, update your application and check the correct **NO** box.

If you check the **NO** box on Question 20, **MassHealth will attempt to verify incarceration** status from federal or state data sources.

PROBLEM: If you check NO on Question 20 but records show that you are still incarcerated, you will receive a notice labeled "Request for Information."

For additional help, contact Massachusetts Law Reform Institute at iwanner@mlri.org

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>>>> Contents of a Request for Information Letter

- A request for information letter will inform you that your application has been received but a **final eligibility decision cannot be made until further information is provided**.
- The notice will ask you to submit proof that you are not incarcerated.
- Once this notice is received, you have **90 days to submit proof that you are not incarcerated.**
- During the 90 days, you will have **temporary MassHealth eligibility.** You will be enrolled in MassHealth and can receive MassHealth benefits if you are otherwise eligible for the program.

>>> How to Respond to a Request for Information Letter

SOLUTION: The easiest way to verify that you are not incarcerated is to submit the Affidavit to Verify Incarceration Status.

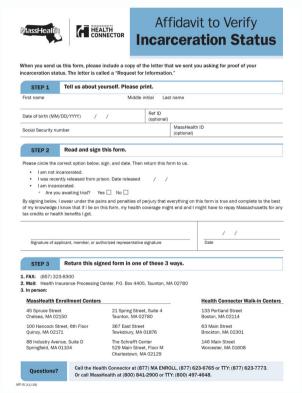
For Further Information & Assistance:

- MassHealth Website: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/contact-masshealth-information-for-members
- MassHealth Customer Service: (800)-841-2900

If you do not respond to the request for information in the 90-day-period, you will receive a denial notice with the date that your benefits will end.

If you encounter any problems in this process and require additional assistance, you can contact Massachusetts Law Reform directly:

iwanner@mlri.org



Affidavit to Verify Incarceration Status



