

Why am I being fingerprinted?

SFIS helps make sure that people don't get duplicate aid by trying to use someone else's identity. SFIS also checks to see if your fingerprint images are already in the system.



SFIS is confidential

We check your fingerprint image and photo against the database of people getting aid.

We only use the information to prevent and investigate duplicate aid. SFIS is only shared with law enforcement if public assistance fraud is suspected.

SFIS

*For Program Integrity.
Protecting Public Funds.
Protecting You.*



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

PUB 337 (9/12)

Statewide
Fingerprint
Imaging
System



What is SFIS?

SFIS, the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System, is a computer system and database containing fingerprint images, photographs, and case information of adults who have applied for CalWORKs or County General Assistance/General Relief.

- **SFIS is confidential.** It is used only to prevent public assistance fraud.
- SFIS is not connected to any other system or database.

Who must go through the SFIS process?

If you apply for CalWORKs:

- All adults applying for aid for themselves.
- All adults applying for aid for a child in their care.

If you apply for County General Assistance/General Relief:

- All eligible adults if your county uses SFIS for their program.

CalFresh applicants are no longer required to go through the SFIS process because of a change in law.

What happens during the SFIS process?

The SFIS clerk will ask you to place each index finger on an electronic scanner. The scanner takes a picture of your fingerprint. The clerk will also take your photograph and type in your name and case information.



What happens to my fingerprint images?

They are sent to the SFIS database and compared to fingerprint images of others who have also applied for aid. They are stored in the SFIS database but can only be shared with an outside agency to prevent public assistance fraud. The information cannot be used for any other reason.

What if my fingerprints match fingerprints already in SFIS?

All matches are reviewed to see if they are due to a county error or duplicate aid fraud. If due to a county error, the matter will be corrected and this will not affect your application. If the cause is related to duplicate aid fraud, your aid may be denied or discontinued. If the decision is to deny aid you will be told how to appeal the finding. Your aid will not be stopped without notice to you.

What if I can't come into the office for SFIS?

Tell the county if you have a disability or condition that prevents you from coming into the office. The county has a mobile SFIS unit, and can come to your home.

What happens if I don't go through the SFIS process?

Your application for CalWORKs will be denied. Your application for CalFresh (or Food Stamp) benefits will continue because SFIS is not required. You will receive CalFresh benefits if you meet all other eligibility rules.