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**Item 03-08-04E****ACWDL 03-40 July 1, 2003 (Synopsis): Medi-Cal Enrollment for Food Stamp Applicants and Recipients****Reference: Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) §§10618.5, 18925**

W&IC §10618.5 requires the county to develop and send a notice to food stamp applicants who are determined to be eligible for food stamps, but did not indicate an interest in Medi-Cal. The notice shall inform food stamp applicants that they may be entitled to receive Medi-Cal. The notice also is required to request permission of such food stamp applicants to use information in the food stamp case file to make a determination of Medi-Cal eligibility. The notice also includes a request for permission to forward information in the food stamp case file to the Healthy Families program if the individual is determined to be ineligible for Medi-Cal or eligible with a share of cost.

W&IC §18925 requires the DHS in conjunction with the CDSS to implement a simplified eligibility process as part of the food stamp program to expedite Medi-Cal and Healthy Families program enrollment for food stamp recipients.

Counties must implement W&IC §§10618.5 and 18925 effective July 1, 2003. The notices must also include Medi-Cal Rights and Responsibilities, a Medi-Cal Confidentiality Notice and Medi-Cal Privacy Notice information. The CDSS attached a sample notice that complies with the requirements of §§10618.5 and 18925.

A prepaid self-addressed return envelope must be provided for each notice given to the applicant or recipient. The county may choose to create one notice that applies to both food stamp applicants and recipients if that notice meets the conditions of §§10618.5 and 18925.

*California Department of Social Services - State Hearings Division  
Notes from the Training Bureau - August 13, 2003*

**Item 03-08-04D****ACWDL 03-36 July 2, 2003 (Synopsis): \$240 Deduction in the Section 1931(b) Program**

ACWDL 02-44 advised that effective November 1, 2002 \$240 of disability income could be deducted from income to determine if an individual or individuals were eligible for 1931(b) Medi-Cal under the alternative B income test.

ACWDL 02-44 established that there are two tests to determine if persons qualify for 1931(b) Medi-Cal. Under alternative A, which applies to 1931(b) recipients, \$240 is deducted from the combined earned income and disability income of all members of the MFBU being evaluated for 1931(b) eligibility. In alternative B that applies to both applicants and recipients, the \$240 deduction can only be applied to disability income.

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This ACWDL expands the definition of public and private disability benefits that qualify as disability income. Public disability payments are those that are paid under statute or other law which require a finding of disability before payment is authorized. Examples include Social Security, permanent worker's compensation, Veteran's benefits and disability-based Railroad Retirement.

Private disability benefits are those paid by a private entity that are made due to a disability, and usually paid by the individual's insurer under a disability insurance plan which the individual purchased through premiums.

Temporary Worker's Compensation (TWC) and State Disability Insurance (SDI) are treated as earned income and not disability income for §1931(b) purposes. Therefore, for purposes of determining §1931(b) eligibility under the alternative B test, the MFBU is not entitled to the \$240 deduction from TWC or SDI.

*California Department of Social Services - State Hearings Division  
Notes from the Training Bureau - August 13, 2003*

**Item 03-08-04C**

**ACWDL 03-34 June 19, 2003 (Synopsis): Changes in the Income Disregard Program for Pregnant Women**

Effective immediately, all income from a parent of a pregnant minor is disregarded if the pregnant minor lives with the parent for purposes of determining if the minor qualifies for the 200% disregard program if the minor is not using regular Medi-Cal rules. Only the net nonexempt income of the pregnant minor, the spouse of the unborn and the father of the unborn are counted.

*California Department of Social Services - State Hearings Division  
Notes from the Training Bureau - August 13, 2003*

**Item 03-08-04B**

**ACWDL 03-28 May 14, 2003 (Synopsis): 2003/2004 Family Member Maximum Base Allocation Amount**

Effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, the family-member base allocation amount for a family member living with the community spouse of a Medi-Cal beneficiary in Long Term Care is \$1515. The family-member maximum base allocation amount is used to determine how much money the LTC beneficiary may allocate to family members for the purpose of reducing the share of cost.

*California Department of Social Services - State Hearings Division  
Notes from the Training Bureau - August 13, 2003*

**Item 03-08-04A**

**ACWDL 03-26 May 8, 2003 (Synopsis): Safe Arms For Newborns Law**