

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 5, 1996

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.
I-46-96

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law Change
- Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF LICENSED VEHICLES IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

This notice provides policy clarification on the treatment of licensed vehicles. The Food and Consumer Service has re-evaluated its policy regarding the accessibility of vehicles as resources, and has provided states with the following guidelines.

JOINTLY OWNED VEHICLES THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD

Vehicles are excluded as resources when jointly owned by a household member and a non-household member not living with the household if the household member does not have possession of, or use of, the vehicle and is unable to sell it (e.g., the signature of the co-owner is needed and he or she will not sign). Manual Section (M.S.) 63-501.21, regarding accessibility of jointly owned resources, applies to jointly owned vehicle situations.

VEHICLES THAT ARE LEGALLY PROHIBITED FROM BEING SOLD

Licensed vehicles, whether solely or jointly owned, shall be excluded as countable resources when the household is legally prohibited from selling the vehicle (e.g., probate, etc.). M.S. 63-501.3(h), regarding inaccessible resources, applies in those situations.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Ernie Villalobos of the Food Stamp Program Bureau at (916) 657-1680.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division