



CDSS

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

October 18, 2011

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 11-72

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY QC REVIEWERS

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN SANCTION PERIOD FOR FAILURE TO COOPERATE IN
A QUALITY CONTROL (QC) REVIEW

REFERENCE: 7 CFR 273.2(d)(2), Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section
63-505.13

The purpose of this letter is to notify counties of a change in federal rules and provide instructions regarding the application of a sanction when refusing to cooperate with a CalFresh QC review and the length of time the sanction is effective. Federal rules previously sanctioned the entire household even if only one member of the household refused to cooperate with the QC review. In order for the household to participate in the CalFresh program, the sanctioned household was required to cooperate with the review or reapply for benefits as outlined in MPP section 63-505.13.

New federal rules now apply the sanction for non-cooperation with the QC review to an individual instead of the entire household. Counties are responsible for determining which member(s) of the household is refusing to cooperate with the QC review and apply the sanction only to that member(s). If it is determined that the entire household is complicit with the refusal to cooperate, the sanction shall be applied to the entire household.

The new federal rules have also extended the sanction period for refusing to cooperate from 95 days to 125 days and for refusal to cooperate with the federal QC reviewer from seven months to nine months after the end of the annual review period. These changes are effective for individuals and/or households who are determined to be non-cooperative with a QC review beginning October 1, 2011.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

Example: Previous federal rules

A CalFresh household consists of a mother and two children. The mother refused to cooperate with the CalFresh QC review. The county terminated the entire household due to the mother's non-cooperation. At this point, the entire household was ineligible until the mother cooperates or 95 days after the end of the annual review period.

Example: New federal rules

A CalFresh household consists of a mother and two children. The mother refuses to participate in the CalFresh QC review. The county will discontinue **only** the mother for her refusal to cooperate. The mother will remain ineligible until she cooperates or 125 days after the end of the annual review period. The two children will continue to receive CalFresh benefits and the mother must reapply for CalFresh benefits and be determined eligible per MPP section 63-508.655.

QUALITY CONTROL

There is a 120-day QC hold-harmless period from the October 1, 2011, effective date. State regulations reflecting the changes outlined in the letter will follow.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Eden-Marie Eulingborough at (916) 654-2236 or via e-mail at Eden-Marie.Eulingborough@dss.ca.gov. If you have any questions regarding QC review processes, please contact Cheryl Henderson at (213) 833-2263 or via e-mail at Cheryl.Henderson@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division