

SNAP POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

TOPIC: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND TRUCK DRIVERS

Reference: 4.304(B)(2), 4.304.1(C), 4.304.2

Background:

As part of determining SNAP eligibility, one must determine who is required to be included in the SNAP household. State regulation 4.304(B) outlines who can be considered in a household, and 4.304.1 outlines individuals who cannot be a separate household.

State regulation 4.304.1(C)(1) states that “a spouse of a member of a household shall not be a separate household.” Therefore, if a spouse is living in the home, then the spouse is a mandatory member in the SNAP household.

There are some instances when a spouse, who is a truck driver, only returns home from work a couple days each month or for only some months of the certification period. When such instances occur, there are times when the eligibility worker determines that the spouse who is not the truck driver is “customarily purchasing food and preparing meals for home consumption separate and apart from...” the truck driver, per regulation 4.304(B)(3) and therefore does not include the truck driver in the home.

Federal re-reviews of SNAP QA cases identified that this situation is considered an unregulated household composition situation where the state needs to ensure that policy is “applied fairly, equitably, and consistently throughout the state,” per federal regulation 7 CFR 273.1(c).

Clarification:

When reviewing household composition, if there is a spouse truck driver who lives in the home, then the spouse truck driver is required to be a mandatory member in accordance with state regulation 4.304.1(c)(1), regardless of the amount of time the spouse truck driver spends in the home and the number of meals the truck driver purchases and prepares with other members of the home.

For purposes of SNAP QA reviews, household composition will be reviewed based on this clarification when there is a spouse truck driver living in the home.

Please direct questions to the following SNAP teams:

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