

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)A)
CalWORKs Program Guide Letter**

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Issue Date:

03/22/2016

Effective Date:

April 1, 2015

Purpose:

To provide final revisions of the CalWORKs Program Guide (CPG) related to drug felons.

Note: Pending CPG updates, this regulation was originally issued via CPG Special Notice No. 15-01.

Background:

CalWORKs and CalFresh individuals convicted in state or federal court of drug related felony were ineligible to benefits.

Policy Change:

Effective April 1, 2015, any individual with prior felony drug conviction will no longer be excluded from CalWORKs and CalFresh, as long as the individual is in compliance with the terms of his or her probation or parole.

Summary of Changes:

41-500.A Assistance Unit

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations
- Reformatted section and removed obsolete information

41-500.E Persons Excluded From the Assistance Unit

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations

44-260.A Annual Reporting Overview

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations
- Reformatted section and removed obsolete information

44-260.D Mandatory Reporting for AR/CO Cases

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations
- Reformatted section and removed obsolete information

44-260.K AR/CO Caseload Management

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations
- Reformatted section and removed obsolete information

44-270.A SAR Overview

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations
- Reformatted section and removed obsolete information

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44-270.G Mandatory Mid-Period Reports

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations
- Reformatted section and removed obsolete information

44-270.J Treatment of Multiple Mid-Period Changes

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations
- Reformatted section and removed obsolete information

44-300.A Vendor Payments

- Updated with revised drug felon regulations
- Removed procedures information and relocated for internal staff use, by introducing Processing Guide 44-300.A1 Vendor Payments
- Reformatted section and removed obsolete information

Changes to the CPG are noted with highlighted text. However, some sections where the only change was the removal of the reference “drug felon” do not contain blue highlights.

CPG Special Notice No. 15-01

- This special notice becomes obsolete with the issuance of this letter

Impacts:

Automation

No impact.

Forms and Document Capture

The State version of M44-307A (11/15) Notice of Action (NOA) has been revised to remove reference to the drug felony conviction as a reason to issue the CalWORKs grant in the form of a vendor payment. This NOA message is used to inform an applicant or recipient of the payment delivery method.

CalWIN breaks down the M44-307A NOA into four versions, one for each of the vendor payment approval reasons. Because individuals with a prior drug felony conviction are no longer ineligible for CalWORKs, the NOA message for Reason Code C70009 is obsolete and should no longer be used.

Obsolete NOA Messages

- M82-832C (01/99) was used to approve cash aid and deny any member(s) of the AU who had a prior drug felony conviction.
- M82-832D (01/99) was used to change the form of a cash aid payment to a voucher/vendor payment when a member of the AU is convicted of a drug felony.

Because individuals with a prior drug felony conviction are no longer ineligible for CalWORKs, these NOA messages are obsolete and should no longer be used.

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Programs Affected

Refer to CalFresh Program Guide Letter No. 616 for the corresponding CalFresh updates related to drug felons.

Quality Control

Quality Control will cite the appropriate error when the regulations cited in this program material have not been followed.

References:

- ACWDL AB 1468
- ACL 14-100
- ACL 15-92
- ACIN I-02-16

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by March 31, 2019

Approval for Release:

 3-22-16

Rick Wanne, Director
Eligibility Operations