

ALASKA ADULT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL

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423 ALASKA RESIDENCY

To be eligible for Adult Public Assistance, a person must be a resident of Alaska. This chapter explains the state residency requirements of the APA program.

423-1 DEFINITION OF ALASKA RESIDENCY

An Alaska resident is a person who:

1. Lives in Alaska voluntarily; and
2. Is not in Alaska for a temporary purpose such as a vacation or a business trip; and
3. Intends to make Alaska his or her home and has no intention of shortly leaving the State to take up residence somewhere else.

Some individuals, such as migrant workers, may enter the State because of a job commitment or to seek employment. These persons are considered to be Alaska residents if they live in Alaska at the time of application and are not receiving public assistance or other benefits based on state residency from another state.

423-2 ABSENCE FROM THE STATE

A. TEMPORARY ABSENCE

Individuals who leave Alaska are not eligible to receive APA during their absence, unless the absence is temporary. A temporary absence is an absence that lasts less than 30 days. Except for the exceptions listed below, persons who leave Alaska for a vacation, business trip, or other absence of 30 days or longer are not eligible for assistance.

The case worker must either close or suspend the individual's APA case, depending on the length of the absence. (Refer to [section 480-5](#) for APA suspension and termination policy.) The individual is not eligible for assistance again until the month he or she returns to Alaska.

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B. EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN ALLOWABLE ABSENCES

An absence of 30 days or longer does not terminate APA eligibility if the absence is for:

1. Medical treatment

Persons remain eligible for APA if they leave the State to get prescribed medical treatment that is not available in Alaska, do not establish residency outside the State, and intend to return to Alaska once they complete their medical treatment. APA recipients shall not be eligible for assistance if they leave Alaska for 30 days or longer to get non-emergency medical treatment that is available in Alaska.

The case worker must advise recipients planning to leave Alaska for medical treatment that the Division of Medical Assistance must authorize all out-of-state medical services, unless they are of an emergency nature. The Division of Medical Assistance will not pay for out-of-state, non-emergency medical treatment that is not authorized in advance of departure.

2. Absence Due to Illness

An individual may remain eligible for APA if he or she is prevented from returning to the State within 30 days because of the individual's own illness, or the illness of the individual's parent, spouse, sibling, or child. To remain eligible, the individual must not establish residency outside the State. In addition, the individual must notify the Division of the reason for the extended absence, provide a supporting statement from a physician, and declare in writing their intent to return to Alaska once the reason for the extended absence ends.

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3. Postsecondary education

Persons remain residents of Alaska and are eligible for APA while they are attending postsecondary education outside the State if they do not establish residency outside the State and intend to return to Alaska once their course of study is completed. It does not matter whether a similar course of study is available in Alaska.

Postsecondary education is enrollment in any course of study recognized as such by the Alaska Department of Education, Postsecondary Education Commission. Individuals leaving Alaska to attend post-secondary education must notify the Division of their intent to leave Alaska and must declare in writing their intent to return to Alaska once they complete their education. Individuals who do not notify the Division of their intended absence before leaving the State are not eligible for assistance. Continued enrollment and intent to return must be verified at least once each calendar year.

4. Vocational, professional, or other special education

Individuals may leave Alaska to attend education of this type if comparable education is not readily available in Alaska and the education will last more than 90 days. These individuals must notify the Division of their intent to leave Alaska and must declare in writing their intent to return to Alaska once they complete their education. Individuals who do not notify the Division of their intended absence before leaving the State are not eligible for assistance.

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C. ALLOWABLE ABSENCE ENDS

An individual will no longer be eligible for assistance under the exceptions listed above if the individual fails to return to the Alaska within 30 days after the reason for the extended absence ends. When this happens, ineligibility begins the month following the calendar month the individual fails to return to Alaska on time.

Example:

Ms. Jones, an unmarried APA recipient, remains eligible for APA while attending college in another state. On May 25, she completes her course of study and receives her degree, but fails to return to Alaska within 30 days. She is ineligible for APA beginning with the month of July.

423-3 APPLICANTS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER STATES

A. OTHER STATE'S SSI SUPPLEMENT

The case worker must question applicants who have recently arrived in Alaska from other states about whether they received assistance from their previous state of residence. If the applicant was receiving a state supplement or Medicaid benefits from another state, the applicant must provide proof that assistance from the other state has ended. Eligibility for Adult Public Assistance cannot begin until the other state's benefits end.

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1. SSA Administers the Other State's SSI Supplement

In some states, SSA determines eligibility and disburses payments for the state supplement as part of the SSI administrative process. States may also choose to have SSA determine Medicaid eligibility for SSI recipients. The APA program must honor SSI residency determinations when determining Alaska residency for individuals receiving a state supplement or Medicaid benefits from these states. If the SSI program lists another state as the applicant's state of residence for a particular benefit month, and SSI paid a state supplement or determined Medicaid eligibility for that month, the other state is considered as the state of residence for that month. To change the state of residence to Alaska, the applicant must notify SSI that he or she is now a resident of Alaska. Alaska residency will exist beginning with the month that SSI determines that Alaska became the applicant's new state of residence.

2. The Other State Administers Its Own SSI State Supplement

In other states (like Alaska), the state administers its own state supplement and makes its own Medicaid determinations. Persons receiving a state supplement from a state of this type are not eligible to receive APA benefits in Alaska for the same month. However, if an applicant can prove that he or she will not receive the other state's supplement for a particular month, or that he or she has returned the other state's supplement for that month, then eligibility for APA for that month may exist.

B. OTHER STATE'S MEDICAID BENEFITS

Persons who receive Medicaid benefits from another state are not eligible to receive Medicaid benefits from Alaska for the same month. (Refer to [Medical Assistance manual section 5012-2.](#))

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423-4 VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCY

A. APPLICANTS

The case worker must verify Alaska residency for all APA applicants. Items that can be used to prove Alaska residency include: rent receipts, utility bills, current Alaska driver's licence, telephone book, city directory, and statements from other individuals who are aware of the client's situation. If other sources of verification are not reasonably available, and the individual is homeless or newly arrived in Alaska, the case worker may accept the client's statement of his or her intent to reside in Alaska.

B. RECIPIENTS

The case worker may require APA recipients to provide proof of Alaska residency if there is reason to doubt their continued residency in the State.