

# ALASKA ADULT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL

## CHAPTER CONTENTS

Section		Page
443	SPECIAL INCOME PROVISIONS .....	Q-1
443-1	GARNISHMENT OR OTHER WITHHOLDING .....	Q-1
443-2	RECOUPMENTS .....	Q-1
443-3	EXPENSES OF OBTAINING UNEARNED INCOME.....	Q-1
	A.    TREATMENT OF ESSENTIAL EXPENSES .....	Q-1
	B.    HOW ESSENTIAL EXPENSES ARE DEDUCTED.....	Q-2
	C.    EXPENSE MONEY ASSUMPTIONS .....	Q-2

**ALASKA ADULT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL**

**THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY**

## ALASKA ADULT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL

### 443 SPECIAL INCOME PROVISIONS

#### 443-1 GARNISHMENT OR OTHER WITHHOLDING

The full amount of income, before amounts are withheld to satisfy a debt, counts as income. Amounts withheld because of a garnishment, or to make certain other payments (such as Medicare premiums or tax payments) are included when determining earned or unearned income amounts.

Items for which amounts may be withheld but considered received include, but are not limited to:

- Taxes;
- Health or life insurance premiums (including Medicare premiums);
- Union dues;
- Payments on loans or other debts;
- Garnishments;
- Child support payments; and
- Service fees on checking or savings accounts.

#### 443-2 RECOUPMENTS

If a benefit program (including the SSI program) withholds any part of an applicant's or recipient's monthly benefit to recover a previous overpayment, the portion of the monthly payment that is withheld is counted as income in determining eligibility and payment for the APA program.

In addition, if SSI withholds any part of an applicant's or recipient's SSI benefits to penalize a recipient for any reason, the gross SSI benefit amount, before withholding, counts in determining eligibility and payment for the APA program.

#### 443-3 EXPENSES OF OBTAINING UNEARNED INCOME

##### A. TREATMENT OF ESSENTIAL EXPENSES

Unearned income does not include that part of a payment which is for an essential expense incurred in getting the payment(s). Amounts remaining after essential expenses have been subtracted are considered as unearned income.

## ALASKA ADULT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL

443-3

### Continued

- Legal, medical, or other expenses connected with an accident may be subtracted from any payment(s) received for damages in connection with the accident.
- Legal fees essential to obtaining benefits from a benefit program (such as Workmans' Compensation payments) other than SSI may be subtracted from a retroactive check issued by that program.

***Verification.** To be excluded from income, essential expenses of obtaining income must be verified. Acceptable evidence includes bills, receipts, pay stubs, contact with the provider, etc. If an expense has been incurred but not paid, assume that the individual will pay the expense unless there is reason to question the situation.*

### **B. HOW ESSENTIAL EXPENSES ARE DEDUCTED**

Deduct expense money from the first and any subsequent amounts of related income until all expenses are completely eliminated.

### **C. EXPENSE MONEY ASSUMPTIONS**

Assume that the following payments for expenses do not exceed the expenses and thus do not result in income. It is not necessary to verify the expenses listed below or follow up on how the money was spent. Such payments are assumed to be used in their entirety to meet expenses.

- Payments by a government agency for expenses related to a service or participating in a program (for example, per diem expense money provided to jurors).
- Lump sum advances or reimbursements by employers to cover expenses of employment paid by the employee (for example, a per diem allowance paid to an employee, or a \$100 allowance paid to a school bus driver to pay for gas and maintenance).