

ALASKA ADULT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL

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470 INSTITUTIONS

Individuals who live in institutions must meet certain eligibility requirements to be eligible for APA. This chapter explains these eligibility requirements.

470-1 INELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

Recipients must live outside of certain institutional settings to qualify for APA benefits. An individual is not eligible for APA during any full calendar month during which he or she lives throughout the month in:

1. An Alaska Pioneers' Home;
2. A prison or jail;
3. A public or private institution for mental disease, such as the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API); or
4. Any other public institution, except a long term nursing care facility or a hospital.

470-2 CONTINUED BENEFITS FOR TEMPORARILY INSTITUTIONALIZED RECIPIENT

An APA recipient may continue to receive full APA benefits for up to 3 months while living in a long-term care facility, psychiatric facility, hospital, or while receiving nursing care in an Alaska Pioneers' Home, which would otherwise result in either APA ineligibility or cause the recipient to be subject to the \$75 personal needs payment. To qualify for continued full APA benefits, the individual must meet and fulfill **all** of the following requirements:

1. The individual must be eligible for APA benefits for the month that he or she enters the institution. Individuals who are SSI recipients must also continue to receive SSI benefits in order to qualify for continued benefits under this provision; receipt of SSI benefits is an eligibility factor for APA for these individuals. The case worker must coordinate continued benefits with the SSI claims representative in these cases.

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Continued

2. The individual must live throughout the affected month in one or more public medical or psychiatric institutions (including the Alaska Psychiatric Institute) or in any other type of Medicaid facility.
3. A physician must certify, in writing, that the individual will live in the institution for 90 days or less. The physician must prepare and date this certification by the 90th day from admission to the institution, or by the time the individual is actually released if the release happens before the 90 days have elapsed. The Med 12 form may be used for this purpose. Send the Med 12 form to the nursing home for physician certification.
4. The individual, or someone acting on the individual's behalf, must show the need to pay some or all the expenses of maintaining a home or living arrangement to which the individual may return. A written statement which specifies this need is enough to verify the individual's need to maintain a home or living arrangement, unless the case worker has reason to believe otherwise.

*Note: In some situations, an institutionalized individual may not be found eligible for continued full APA benefits right away. If continued full APA benefits are approved **after** nursing home income credits showing a patient liability for the individual's cost of care are issued, the case worker must send an e-mail to the DPA EIS Helpdesk. The Helpdesk will correct the income credits to show a "0" patient liability for the same months that the individual is determined eligible for continued full APA benefits.*

470-3

TEMPORARY ABSENCE FROM INSTITUTION

A. TEMPORARY ABSENCE

A resident of an institution who is temporarily absent from the institution for no more than 14 consecutive days, without being discharged from the institution, continues to be considered an institutional resident. If the individual is discharged from the institution, the continuity of the stay is interrupted, even if the individual returns in less than 14 days, and regular APA standards apply for that month.

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470-3 Continued

Note: Questions from facilities regarding Medicaid payment during a temporary absence from a Medicaid facility must be referred to First Health Services Corporation, the State's fiscal agent.

B. TRANSFER TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION

An individual who is transferred from one institution directly to another institution remains an institutional resident.

470-4 PARTIAL MONTH INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENCE

If otherwise eligible, an individual may receive APA benefits for the month of admission or discharge from an institution listed in 470-1, above, if he or she lives outside the institution for at least one day of the month.

An individual who expects release from an institution may apply for APA before release. The application may be approved upon proof of the applicant's actual discharge from the institution. Benefits will begin with the month the applicant is discharged from the institution or the month in which the applicant meets all eligibility factors for the APA program, whichever is later.

470-5 PUBLICLY OPERATED COMMUNITY RESIDENCE

A public institution does not include a publicly operated community residence that serves no more than 16 residents. To be a community residence, the facility must provide food and shelter and make available some other services, such as social services, help with personal living activities, training in social interaction or life skills, or occasional or incidental medical or remedial care. There are no publicly operated community residences currently operating in Alaska.

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