

DSS-4357EL

WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM  
DIVISION: Temporary Assistance

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**TO:** Local District Commissioners, TA Directors, FS Directors, CAP Coordinators

**FROM:** Patricia A. Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Temporary Assistance, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance  
Betty Rice, Director, Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

**SUBJECT:** Families in Transition Act of 2000

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Temporary Assistance: Central Region at (518) 474-9344  
Food Stamps: Eastern Region at (518) 473-1469  
Medical Assistance: Upstate: LD Liaison (518) 474-9130  
NYC: (212) 268-6855

This is to advise districts about policy requirements resulting from the enactment of the Families in Transition Act of 2000. Effective immediately, districts are advised that, whenever a district becomes aware that the adult caretaker of a minor child has died, the district must take prompt steps to adjust benefits levels, case classification and payee to reflect current circumstances. Temporary assistance eligibility must not lapse solely by reason of death of the adult caretaker of the minor child, until arrangements are completed for the addition of the child to another temporary assistance household, reclassification of the case, foster care or other appropriate financial support. The Safety Net Assistance forty-five day application period will not apply to these situations, and assistance may be provided immediately to these cases. This exemption to the forty-five day application period is only to avoid a lapse in temporary assistance benefits and is not for applicants who were non-temporary assistance children prior to the death of the adult caretaker.

**FOOD STAMPS:** This Act does not modify the provisions of the food stamp household concept. Local districts are reminded that care should be taken to assist households containing affected children in order to avoid unnecessary interruptions or losses in food stamp benefits.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:** Death of a parent or caretaker is not reason to terminate Medicaid eligibility for a child. Before Medicaid eligibility can be terminated for a child whose caretaker has died, the usual separate determination procedures apply (see 99 INF-6).