
CARETAKER RELATIVE ELIGIBILITY

MA-3235 CARETAKER RELATIVE ELIGIBILITY

REVISED 08/01/13 – CHANGE NO. 04-13

I. WHO IS A CARETAKER RELATIVE

A caretaker relative is the natural or adoptive parent(s), the stepparent or the specified relative who lives in the household with the child and provides the child's day-to-day care and supervision.

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To receive Medicaid as the caretaker relative, the caretaker relative must meet all the following requirements:

- A. Be a citizen of the U.S. or be an alien who meets the criteria contained in MA-3332, US Citizenship Requirements and/or MA-3330, Alien Requirements.**
- B. Be a resident of North Carolina as defined in MA-3335, State Residence.**
- C. Be living with and caring for a child under age 19 who is a citizen or alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (LPR).**

NOTE: The child does not have to be eligible or receiving Medicaid for the caretaker/relative to be eligible. When the child is not receiving Medicaid or is receiving Medicaid in another aid program/category, the caretaker relative may be the only individual in the MAF assistance unit and budget unit.

- D. Not be an inmate of a public institution. **Although not eligible as caretakers, individuals incarcerated in a NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Prisons (DOP) facility have their eligibility placed in suspension if otherwise eligible to receive Medicaid. Refer to MA-3360, Living Arrangement.****
- E. Not be in an institution for mental diseases. **Although not eligible as caretakers, individuals under age 21 or individuals age 65 or older receiving inpatient psychiatric care are eligible for assistance. See MA-3360, Living Arrangements.****

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(II.)

- F. Live with the child except for a temporary absence (12 months or less). (See MA-3350, Kinship and Living With Requirements for Families and Children, and MA-3305, M-AF, M-IC, H-SF Budgeting)**
- G. Not have resources in excess of the resource limit. Refer to MA-3320, Resources, for resource requirements.**
- H. Meet income criteria according to regulations outlined in MA-3300, Income. See MA-3305, M-AF, M-IC, H-SF Budgeting.**
- I. Not be receiving Medicaid for his own needs from another assistance category, county, or state.**
- J. Provide verification of all health insurance coverage for himself and assign to the State all rights to third party payments from any such insurance coverage.**
- K. Furnish his Social Security number or apply for a number if he does not already have one and furnish all Social Security numbers which have been used or under which benefits have been received. Refer to MA-3355, Enumeration Procedures.**
- L. Cooperate with the local child support enforcement agency in establishing paternity and securing medical and child support for any child who lacks parental care and support due to continued absence of one or both parents for reasons other than death for whom assistance is requested under any aid program/category. Refer to MA-3365, Child Support. (Only applicable to caretakers of children budgeted in private living arrangement.)**

If a Work First caretaker relative fails to cooperate with child support, he is ineligible for Medicaid.

NOTE: This does not apply to those women receiving Medicaid under M-PW.

- M. Not have transferred real or personal property, including liquid resources, as specified by Transfer of Resources in MA-2240, Transfer of Resources, in the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid Manual. This only applies to long term care living arrangement cases.**

III. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

A. Stepparents

A stepparent living in the home with the parent and child(ren) can be included in the assistance unit if eligibility criteria are met. Refer to MA-3305 M-AF, M-IC, H-SF Budgeting.

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B. Non-Parent Specified Relative:

To be included in the assistance unit as the caretaker relative, the non-parent specified relative must:

1. Be the only specified relative considered in the assistance unit. If the parent of the child is in the home, do not include the specified relative in the assistance unit (except stepparents as indicated in A.).

Never include the spouse of a specified relative in the assistance unit with the specified relative and the eligible child.

2. Meet the requirements of relationship to the child in MA-3350, Kinship and Living with Requirements for Families and Children. A non-related adult must qualify for medical assistance in his own right.

C. Adoption

Prior to signing a release for adoption, the mother can receive Medicaid as the caretaker relative under the MAF aid program/category even if she leaves the hospital without the baby and never actually becomes the caretaker. Once the release is signed, she is not eligible as a caretaker of the child. Her parental financial responsibility ends when the release is signed.

D. Joint Custody

1. When a child's parents live apart but have joint custody, determine which parent is the primary caretaker. This is the parent with whom the child spends the majority of his time, the parent who is primarily responsible for the child's day-to-day care (school, day care, medical care). Consider this parent the primary caretaker for budgeting purposes. Count the income of the primary caretaker as available to the child.
2. If the child spends equal time with both parents and you are unable to establish a primary caretaker, consider both parents financially responsible for the child. Count both parents' income as available to the child.

In this situation neither parent can be included in the a.u. If one of the parents wishes to be included in the assistance unit, he or she must be the primary caretaker.

3. If the child spends equal time with both parents, but one parent pays child support for the child, consider the parent receiving the child support to be the primary caretaker. Count the income of the primary caretaker parent as available to the child.