

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL RECIPIENTS OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR  
ADULTS (SA)**

September 1, 2003

The 2003 session of the North Carolina General Assembly approved a change in the rate for Adult Care Homes for most recipients of Special Assistance. Beginning October 1, 2003, the rate that you pay the facility each month may be reduced from \$1,091 to \$1,066. Your SA check may be reduced beginning in October 2003 because of the decrease in the rate you pay the facility.

Exception: If your income is more than \$1,112 but less than \$1,137 per month, you will continue to pay the facility \$1,091 per month.

The General Assembly also approved an increase in the personal needs allowance from \$36 to \$46 for all Special Assistance recipients.

There is a small group of people who pay a rate of \$1,231 per month. The rate for this group will not change. If you are in this group, your SA check will increase by \$10 because of the increase in the personal needs allowance from \$36 to \$46.

**Hearing Rights:** If you disagree with this decision, you have a right to ask for a hearing. To ask for a hearing, call or write your caseworker within sixty (60) days, that is by November 1, 2003. If you do not ask for a hearing by that date, you cannot have a hearing. A local hearing will be held within 5 days of your request unless you ask for it to be postponed for good reason for an additional 10 days. The hearing will establish whether this action was correct. Then, if you think the decision in the local hearing was wrong, call or write your caseworker within 15 days of the local hearing to ask for a second hearing before a state hearing officer.

You may have someone speak for you at your hearing, such as a relative or an attorney obtained at your expense. Free legal services may be available in your community. Contact your caseworker for information on free legal services.

If you ask, your caseworker will show you and the person speaking for you your eligibility record before your hearing. You may ask to see other information used at the hearing.

DSS Administrative Letter 03-2003

Figure 1