

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

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Health Care Policy / Medical Policy

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POLICY MEMO:

To: All SRS Staff

From: Kristi Scheve, Senior Manager,
Family Medical Eligibility Program Policy

HCP Eligibility Policy No: 2005-03-03

KFMAM: No Reference

RE: Exclusion of Combat Pay

Program(s): Caretaker Medical, Transitional Medical, Extended Medical, Poverty Level Eligible, and HealthWave 21

Background

The Economic and Employment Support Division of SRS issued a Policy Memo March 1, 2005 that outlined procedures for excluding Combat Pay (i.e., Hostile Pay) for the Food Stamp Program and allotments available to family members from such income. The EES Policy Memo indicates that this exclusion of Hostile Pay also applies to the cash, child care, and LIEAP programs for consistency. Hostile Pay for the MS program is already exempt by KEESM 6410(25). This memo is intended to clarify how Combat Pay is to be treated for the Family Medical Program area.

The Family Medical Program area includes Caretaker Medical, Transitional Medical, Extended Medical, Poverty Level Eligible, and the HealthWave 21 program and the following guidelines will be used in determining eligibility for Family Medical assistance.

- I. **Combat Pay Policy** - The Caretaker Medical program is largely based on the rules for the TAF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) program. HCP/MP strives to maintain consistent policies across the entire Family Medical Program area whenever possible. Therefore, a household member's Hostile Pay is to be excluded for Family Medical determinations.

In Family Medical cases, the deployed member remains a part of the household and is included in the medical eligibility determination in accordance with KFMAM 2140. In cases where a deployed military member is not considered in the home and does not meet temporary absence provisions, any income received by the household is not exempt under this provision. Income received from a non household member is usually considered a contribution, gift, or child support income and must be treated accordingly.

II. Procedures - To help workers execute this policy, additional details contained in EES' Memo related to determining the amount of income attributed to hazardous duty is included in this memo. It is important to note that only the amount of income that exceeds the amount the military member was making prior to deployment to a designated combat area is exempt in accordance with this clarification.

A. Determining Amount of Income - You must determine the portion of the military member's pay that is a result of hazardous duty. This can be accomplished by comparison of the military member's pay received prior to deployment to pay currently received while in a designated hazardous duty area. Only the income portion that is a result of hazardous duty is exempt.

A military member receives a Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) which is either mailed to the household directly or can be sent to the household through correspondence with the military member. The LES can be used to verify combat pay. A type of pay that is clearly related to deployment to a combat zone and is reflected on the LES is HFP/IDP (hazardous duty and special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger) is currently \$225.

Income is generally made available to the military member through direct deposit of military pay into a bank account or through an allotment arrangement where the service person receives a portion of the pay and the bulk of the pay is sent to the family of the military member. In some cases it may be possible to use the bank statement as verification of income or to determine the increase related to deployment to a combat area.

While specific arrangements can vary between services and from base to base, households have various ways to obtain pay information of the deployed person. Some have access via the web and others can seek assistance via the local base financial office.

B. Designated Combat Zones/Hazardous Duty Areas - Deployment to a combat zone can be established via the military member's LES (see above) or through a copy of orders issued to the military person. Frequently, entire units are deployed and the place of their deployment is a matter of public records.

The following is a list of designated combat zones. This list was taken from the Food Stamp policy information contained in the EES Policy Memo. It is possible for the designated combat areas to change within this policy's time frame.

- Bahrain
- Gulf of Aden
- Gulf of Oman
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Persian Gulf
- Qatar
- Oman
- Red Sea

Saudi Arabia
United Arab Emirates
Turkey effective 1 Jan 2003
Jordan effective 19 Mar 2003
Afghanistan
Pakistan effective 19 Sep 2001
Tajikistan effective 19 Sep 2001
Jordan effective 19 Sep 2001
Incirlik AFB Turkey effective 21 Sep 2001
Kyrgyzstan effective 1 Oct 2001
Uzbekistan effective 1 Oct 2001
Phillipines (only troops w/orders that reference OEF) effective 9 Jan 2002
Yemen effective 10 Apr 2002
Djibouti effective 1 Jul 2002
The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro)
Albania
The Adriatic Sea
The Ionian Sea north of the 39th parallel
Bosnia
Herzegovina
Croatia
Macedonia

- III. Implementation** - This policy will not be included in the Kansas Family Medical Assistance Manual (KFMAM) due to the time-limited authorization of the exclusion in public law for the Food Stamp Program.

The exclusion of Combat Pay for Family Medical assistance is effective with applications and reviews processed on or after March 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005. At the end of this time period, additional guidance will be made available to staff based on whether the federal legislation is renewed. In the event that the legislation is not renewed, any income excluded as a result of this policy will remain excluded for the remainder of the family's review period.

Conclusion

If you have questions about this memo, please send them to Kristi Scheve, Senior Manager, Family Medical Eligibility Program Policy at kaxg@srskansas.org or Patty Rice, Manager, Family Medical Eligibility Program Policy at psys@srskansas.org.