



FACILITATED ENROLLMENT MAY 2009

“Perform, then, this one act of remembrance before this Day passes - *Remember* there is an army of defense and advance that never dies and never surrenders, but is increasingly recruited from the eternal sources of the American spirit and from the generations of American youth.” ~W.J. Cameron

May is upon us. The month of May is filled with wonderful events. For most people May means Mother's Day. And if you are blessed to have a mother in your life, by all means make sure you celebrate her! I am very lucky this year to have my 3 children, my mother and mother-in-law to spend the day with. Now, granted, I will have to cook and entertain the grandmothers, but that's okay – someday, I too, will be a grandma (but not too soon!). If you are a mother, then you know we don't need this day. It's wonderful to be fawned over and get the attention (remind me of that while I am cooking) on Mother's Day. Everyday is Mother's Day as far as I am concerned. Children, and it doesn't matter how old they are, seem to love us warts and all. My children don't remember when I was flat on my back for 4 years when they came home from school. They remember me at soccer games in the rain, being Class Mom, teaching them how to drive, and doing the best I could. And as moms, and parents in general, we tend to think we could do better. I think we raise our children the best way we know how without a manual. So, Happy Mother's Day to everyone! You may need tissues for the inspirational piece.

May is also Memorial Day. As you know, my family sponsors West Point Cadets and we support the military any way we can. Right now, 3 of our “boys” and one wife is in the war zone. We send them care packages and letters and make sure they know how much their service to our country is appreciated. One of our soldiers in Afghanistan is deep in country and no longer able to receive packages/email. He has asked us to send our monthly package to the Company Chaplain so his fellow soldiers can enjoy the goodies in his place. There are many soldiers who do not receive packages. If you would like to support a soldier, or his/her unit, there is a website dedicated to this. The website is: www.anysoldier.com. You can choose someone and send a care package to that unit. You can also link to the other branches of the military from this site. It's an easy way to show our troops America cares. Let's not forget our moms or our military this month!

We have heard the comment that it is getting harder to do this job. Yes, it is. We are asked to provide more information; we are being overwhelmed by families. Yet, this is our job and we need to do it correctly. This newsletter will deal with current issues we are seeing with the applications.



Premium Expansion

This is a reminder that applications processed after May 21, 2009 have the new expansion premiums. This was discussed in the April newsletter. If you have questions, or if you cannot locate the new chart which was sent, please call. The new premium levels are \$30, \$45 and \$60 per child to a family maximum of 3.



Worksheets

I realize that many of us are trying to save our environment. However new worksheets were sent to you several weeks ago. You **MUST** throw out the old worksheets and use the new ones. The family name must be on the worksheets – both pages. The due date must be filled in if you are applying for a pregnant woman. This is the last section of the eligibility worksheet.



Resources

Resource amounts must be indicated on the application if any of the applicants are over 21. If the family does not have resources, please write \$0. You may write N/A (Not Applicable) on applications with children. All sections of the application must be looked at; all sections of the application are reviewed. Resources are bank accounts (checking and/or savings), IRAs, pensions, 401Ks. The values of these are added together to determine if an adult is eligible. If there is interest on any of these accounts, that is considered income.

Resource values are not used in determining a child's eligibility. You need to know if there are resources to determine if there is interest income. However, we do not count the resource. If a family states they are living off their savings, we need the bank account to prove that. While we are not trained to be forensic accountants, please look at the bank statements. If a family is not working, the only deposits going into the accounts may be unemployment. You need to question deposits if a family is not working; some people are using credit card convenience checks to make ends meet. Verify the deposits and have the family write a note explaining that.



Careless Mistakes

You are overwhelmed. We know that. Careless mistakes are being made. What is interesting is that it is not the same mistake. Please review the application before you mail it to us. Make sure you are using the proper forms (new worksheets – eligibility, self-declaration). Make sure you have filled out the back of the application. Make sure all the boxes are checked, case notes included – you know the drill.



Case Notes

Case notes are more important than ever. Case notes must make sense. The application must make sense. Letters from the family must make sense. Are you sensing the theme here? If a person makes minimal income, yet travels for work, the case note simply can't say, "I'm making my ends meet". Think about your own situation. You drive to work – that means you either own your own car (lucky you) or you have a car payment. You need to put gas in the car; you need to have insurance on the vehicle. These are all expenses in addition to food, housing payment, utility bills. A letter stating, "I'm making my ends meet" is not acceptable if they are barely scraping by. The Local Districts like long case notes; they've told us this before. But they must make sense. Someone who earns a monthly gross of \$300, lives with their parents, pays minimal rent, but owns a car is not making their ends meet. If Mom or Dad pays the insurance, that's in a case note. If Mom and Dad only take money occasionally, then is the person truly paying rent? This information need to be in a case note. Please make sure the application makes sense. You delay the process if the application does not make sense.



Marriage Certificates/Second ID

For the past several years, we have been required to obtain a second form of ID on applicants. For children, it is most common to submit school records or immunization records. For adults, a driver's license is generally provided. If a person provides a passport, green card or naturalization certificate, a second form is not required. These documents have photos on them. A marriage certificate is **not** a valid second ID. Marriage certificates document age, but not citizenship or identity. In order for someone to use their marriage certificate as a second ID, they must submit 3 additional pieces of documentation with it!!! The applicant can combine a marriage certificate with high school or college diploma, employer ID card, property deeds/title. This information is found on the 2 page insert of the application (attached to the Additional Information page). It is listed under "Documents which Establish Identity".

Please be aware that the second ID is a **federal**, not state, requirement. There is no bending of the rules on this one (it comes from Homeland Security). There is no room for discussion. People can go to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a non-driver photo ID.



Happy Birthday, Selina!

Before I Was a Mom

Before I was a Mom, I never tripped over toys or forgot words to a lullaby.
I didn't worry whether or not my plants were poisonous.
I never thought about immunizations.

Before I was a Mom, I had never been puked on.
Pooped on.
Chewed on.
Peed on.
I had complete control of my mind and my thoughts.
I slept all night.

Before I was a Mom, I never held down a screaming child so doctors could do tests.
Or give shots.
I never looked into teary eyes and cried.
I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin.
I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep.

Before I was a Mom, I never held a sleeping baby just because I didn't want to put her down.
I never felt my heart break into a million pieces when I couldn't stop the hurt.
I never knew something so small could affect my life so much.
I never knew that I could love someone so much.
I never knew I would love being a Mom.

Before I was a Mom, I didn't know the feeling of having my heart outside my body.
I didn't know how special it could feel to feed a hungry baby.
I didn't know that bond between a mother and her child.
I didn't know that something so small could make me feel so important and happy.

Before I was a Mom, I had never gotten up in the middle of the night every 10 minutes to make sure all was okay.
I had never know the warmth,
The joy,
the love,
The heartache,
The wonderment
Or the satisfaction of being a Mom.
I didn't know I was capable of feeling so much,
Before I was a Mom.