

WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

03/13/98

DIVISION: Office Of Medicaid Management

PAGE 1

GIS 98 MA/007

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Ann Clemency Kohler, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Medicaid Management

SUBJECT: Automobile Exemption for SSI-Related Individuals

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Wendy Butz, 518-473-5500

This message is to advise social services districts of a change in policy concerning the treatment of an automobile for SSI-related individuals.

In accordance with SSI policy, one automobile is excluded as a resource if it is being used by the SSI-related individual or a member of his or her family. This exclusion applies regardless of the value of the automobile. An additional vehicle may be exempt if there is a medical need for it.

It has come to our attention that SSI regulations also provide for an exclusion of up to \$4,500 of the current market value of an automobile when the automobile cannot be wholly excluded because it is not being used by the individual or a member or his or her family. This situation is likely to occur in instances where an individual enters a nursing home and his or her automobile is no longer being used to provide transportation for the individual.

Previously, when an automobile lost its exempt status, the equity value of the vehicle was considered to be a countable resource. Effective immediately, social services districts are to disregard up to \$4,500 of the current market value of an automobile if the automobile cannot be excluded based on use. If the current market value exceeds \$4,500, the excess is to be considered a countable resource. Equity value is not a consideration when applying the \$4,500 disregard.

Department regulation 360-4.7(a)(2) will be amended to reflect this policy.