

Policy Clarifications - Food Stamp PFS13609506

Submitted: 3/01/07

Agency: CAOs

Citations: [FSH 506.7](#)

Subject: Timeframe for Providing Postponed Verification

RE: 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii) Food Stamp Expedited Service

Recent clarifications have provided information that there are two distinct processing standards for food stamp applications, namely expedited services and normal processing. It appears that the only time we would reject an application correctly screened positive for expedited services under normal processing (30 days) would be if the household refused to cooperate, for example, not respond to a PA 1599. Our question deals with how much time we would allow the household, authorized for FS through an expedited NCE, to provide postponed verification.

What 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii) seems to be saying is the length of time that the household has to provide the postponed verification is determined by the length of the certification period, rather than the 30 day period under normal processing standards.

For example:

A FS application filed 3/1/07 and authorized as expedited services until 3/31/07 would have until 3/31/07 to provide the missing verification. A FS application filed on 3/16/07 and authorized as expedited services until 4/30/07 would have until 4/30/07 to provide postponed verification. If verification is provided timely, then, assuming the household is still eligible, benefits are authorized recurrently. If the verification is not received by the deadline a new FS application would be required and would be handled via normal processing.

It also appears that the option available in normal processing under 7 CFR 273.2 (h) (2), which allows for a second 30 period to cooperate in the application process, would not apply to applications on the expedited processing path.

Are these interpretations correct?

Response By: Barbara Hummel

Date: 3/27/07

Allow the household sufficient time to provide the missing verification. 7 CFR 273.2(h)(1)(i)(C) defines sufficient time. It states, "Sufficient time shall be at least 10 days from the date of the State agency's initial request for the particular verification that is missing." The CAO will deny an application and send the household appropriate notice if the application is not processed by the 30th day because of a household delay.

If the application is denied and the household takes the required action within 60 days of the original application, the CAO will reopen the case without requiring a new application.

Although the household has the primary responsibility for providing verification, the CAO should offer to assist the household in promptly obtaining the necessary verification.