

**Policy Clarification
SNAP/Food Stamp
PFS12726560**

Submitted:12/02/05

Agency: CAOs

Citations: FSH 550.4 and 550.5(6)

Subject: Shelter Expenses Paid by Individual Outside the Household

Are shelter expenses which are paid directly to the shelter provider or utility by individual outside the household an allowable expense.

Response By: D. Hoffman

Date: 12/06/05

No, this is not an allowable shelter expense. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(d)(i) state that expenses paid by excluded vendor payments is not allowed as a shelter expense.

Payments of shelter costs directly to the landlord or utility by someone outside the household, using money which is not owed to the household, are third party payments or vendor payments. These payments are excluded as income to the household, and the expenses paid are not allowable shelter costs.

If the household expense is paid by a person or organization outside the household on only a sporadic basis, allow the deduction for the household. The purpose of deductions is to offset the household's expenses to arrive at how much money is available to buy food. FSH [550.4](#) and [550.5\(6\)](#) will be updated.