**Policy Clarifications**

**SNAP- All**

**PFS-19448-503**

**Submitted: 7/3/19 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: Fleeing Felon**

**Question**:

If an individual has been charged with a felony but does not appear for his court proceedings. He flees his county of residence and applies for SNAP benefits in another County. A bench warrant has been issued for the individual, would they be eligible for SNAP since he was not convicted of the felony due to fleeing before his court case was held? Desk guide: A fleeing felon is defined as an individual for whom a felony arrest warrant for escape, flight to avoid or flight to escape has been issued.

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| **Response by: Policy Clarification Unit Date:**  |  |

A fleeing felon is defined as an individual for whom a felony arrest warrant for escape, flight to avoid, or flight- escape has been issued.  The person must have knowledge of the warrant to be considered a fleeing felon and must be given the opportunity to verify that the warrant has been satisfied.  If an applicant or recipient meets this definition, they are ineligible for SNAP benefits.

**NOTE:** This provision is not applicable for any month after the person is granted a presidential pardon.

 If it is learned during application processing that there is a warrant out for the applicant’s arrest, the CAO needs to verify with the applicant whether they had knowledge of the warrant.  The applicant is to be given an opportunity to submit documentation that the warrant has been satisfied.

If the CAO learns that a warrant is outstanding against a SNAP recipient, the CAO is to contact the recipient to determine if they had knowledge of the warrant and to give them an opportunity to submit documentation that the warrant has been satisfied.  If the SNAP recipient does not verify that the warrant has been satisfied, at that point the CAO will determine them ineligible for SNAP benefits.