

Policy Clarifications - Food Stamp PFS13296575

Submitted: 8/25/06

Agency: CAOs

Citations:

Subject: Certification Period - ABAWDS in Waived Counties

OPS Memo [03-01-05](#) states, "As of January 1, 2003, the system will set a six-month recertification date for households containing an individual with an eligibility status code of EB and a food stamp qualification code of 20. The CAO can reduce the certification period as needed. . . .to set appropriate certification for ABAWDs with FS-qualification code 20 per FSH 575."

[Q2980](#) indicates that in a waived county, CIS assigned a 12-month certification period instead of a six-month certification period. The response indicated that the system is working per FS policy requirements and that further clarification was requested from Bureau of Policy.

For waived counties with ABAWDs (eligibility status code EW food stamp qualification code 20), how should recertifications be handled?

Response By: Division of Federal Programs and Program Management

**Date:
8/28/06**

We have determined ABAWD households are not limited to a maximum of a six-month certification. Therefore, the certification period for ABAWD households in waived counties (EW 20) may be 12 months.

The certification period for persons who meet the time-limited ABAWD criteria in non-waived areas (EB 20) will continue to be 6 months.

CIS currently sets ABAWD certification periods according to this policy.

The Food Stamp Handbook Section 575.23 will be revised at next chapter revision.