

Policy Clarifications –

SNAP

PFS-18964-523

Submitted: 7/19/2018

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Temporary Absence of SNAP Household

Question:

We have a household that has reported they will be leaving the country for approximately two months. This household is active SNAP and MA. The Medical Assistance Handbook includes policy for Temporary Absence from the United States. However, we cannot locate anything in the SNAP Handbook, OPS Memos or Policy Clarifications regarding the procedure for the SNAP benefit.

Does the SNAP benefit need to be closed and household re-apply when they return? Or should the SNAP remain open?

Response By: Division of Family Assistance

**Date:
07/25/2018**

No. The CAO will not close the SNAP benefit during a temporary absence. There is no provision in SNAP policy that sets a time limit for out of state temporary absence.

PFS-12479-523 advises that a client's benefits would continue in Pennsylvania during a temporary absence if the client has a definite plan to return to PA and is maintaining residence in PA. The SNAP household must verify that it continues to incur shelter expenses in PA. Monitor the case and explain the circumstances in the case narrative. Set a reminder/alert to review based on the anticipated return date and narrate all updates.