

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE MANUAL	
NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES 304	COMAR 07.03.03.06	TECHNICAL ELIGIBILITY 300

304.1 REQUIREMENTS

- A. When two unmarried adults live together in a family relationship, they and all of their minor children must be in the assistance unit if they have a child in common, including an unborn child.
- B. When one of the adults does not have a minor child living in the home, that person cannot be in the assistance unit.
- C. When the other adult has a natural or adopted minor child, but no child in common with the customer, he or she can choose to be in or out of the unit.
 1. If the other person is in the assistance unit, that person's natural or adopted children must also be in the unit, unless otherwise excluded by policy.
 2. If the other person is not in the unit, that person's children are also not in the unit.

Note: The State of Maryland does not recognize common law marriage.

If the other person chooses to be in the assistance unit, but is technically ineligible:

- His or her children may be in the unit, and if so count income and resources (see Financial Eligibility, section 907- Ineligible Household Members.
- If the other person chooses to be in the assistance unit but is sanctioned, follow normal sanction procedures:
 - Apply a full-family sanction to all members of the assistance unit, including the other partner and all children
 - Remove only the financial needs of the sanctioned person if it is an individual sanction

- D. Never establish two assistance units when adults are living in a family relationship.
- E. If the parent is no longer in the home, the other person:
 1. Is the caretaker relative to all the children if there is a child in common
 - The child in common is the half-sibling to all the other children
 2. Has no legal relationship to the absent parent's children if they do not have a child in common and cannot receive TCA for those children

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- Refer to Social Services and legal services if the other person wants to continue to care for the children of the absent parent.
- Close the TCA case if there are no eligible children, or
- Remove the children of the absent parent from the grant

304.2 VERIFICATION

- A. Verification is required to set up the assistance unit only if questionable
- B. The resources and income of the other person are verified only if he or she is:
 1. In the assistance unit, or
 2. An excluded person with countable resources and income

304.3 CASE MANAGEMENT TIPS

When the other person has a choice, test income to determine what is to the household's advantage

304.4 EXAMPLES

1. Mrs. Smith applies for assistance for her two sons. She is divorced from their father. She is living with Mr. Jones who supports her and his minor daughter.
 - Mrs. Smith must be in the unit with her sons.
 - Mr. Jones and his daughter can choose to be in or out of the unit.
 - If Mr. Jones is not in the unit, any cash given to Mrs. Smith is income, but third party payments and in-kind income are excluded
2. Miss Green is applying for assistance because she is pregnant. She lives with Mr. Blue, the father of her unborn, and his two sons.
 - Miss Green, Mr. Blue, and his sons must be in the assistance unit together because he is the father of the unborn child and his other children must be in the unit with him.
3. Mrs. Purple and her daughter, Violet, live with Mr. Orange and his son, Red. Mrs. Purple is pregnant with Mr. Orange's child. All are in the assistance unit. Mr. Orange leaves the home and Red stays with Mrs. Purple.
 - Mrs. Purple is eligible to receive assistance for herself, Violet, and Red because her unborn child is a half-sibling of Red.
 - When the baby is born, add the child to the grant.

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4. Miss Nashville applies for assistance for herself, her daughter, Dolly from a previous relationship, and her boyfriend, Mr. Knoxville. Mr. Knoxville was supporting them until he was injured and could no longer work
- Miss Nashville and Dolly are in the assistance unit.
 - Mr. Knoxville has no minor children, so he cannot be included in the TCA unit, but he will be in the food stamp unit.
 - Mr. Knoxville may apply for Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP)