

# FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 22-15 Effective Date: Immediately

**Issuance Date: March 31, 2022** 

TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT, FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF

HEALTH OFFICERS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY STAFF

FROM: LA SHERRA AYALA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA

DEBBIE RUPPERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MDH/OES

RE: SYSTEMATIC ALIEN VERIFICATION FOR

**ENTITLEMENTS (SAVE) PROGRAM SYSTEM** 

PROGRAM IMPACTED: ALL PROGRAMS

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS** 

#### **SUMMARY**

The Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program is an intergovernmental information-sharing partnership developed to help case managers determine immigration status for eligibility for federal benefits. SAVE is an online system that allows case managers to directly access and verify information on a customer's citizenship and immigration status. Effective July 12, 2009, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) implemented enhancements to the SAVE program. These enhancements improve the speed and efficiency of the SAVE system and provide additional data sources that case managers can use. The conversion will transfer all data entered by the user and retain active and historical case data. This action transmittal informs local departments about the enhancements and provides a guide to accessing the system.

#### **OVERVIEW OF SYSTEM**

## **Features of the System**

- Case Creation The initial verification process allows case managers to enter demographic information (name, DOB, immigration identifier) of the applicant and input the data based on the applicant's attested information or provided documents. If information is entered in an incorrect number format, the field will be highlighted with an error message.
  - Case managers will select all the benefits and additional information the applicant is requesting, and

- Additional information should be automatically requested if needed to determine eligibility for a selected benefit.
- Review Case Details Review the information entered from the previous page for accuracy. If a change to an entry is needed, the case manager should select the Go Back and update the information.
- **Photo Match** SAVE *may* present the photo match screen if your agency is configured to use it and USCIS has a photo on file that matches the one in the applicant's immigration documentation.
- Initial Verification Response/Status Returned If SAVE has verified the applicant's status based on the information submitted, SAVE will respond with the applicant's immigration or naturalized/derived citizenship status.
- Initial Verification Response/Institute Additional Verification If SAVE is unable to immediately verify the applicant's status based upon the information you have provided, SAVE will provide an Institute Additional Verification response.

# **REQUIRED ACTION:**

The SAVE system website link can be found at <u>SAVE</u>. Use the attached instructions guide for logging on and navigating through the system features.

**SAVE Presentation** 

SAVE Guide Commonly Used Immigration documents

## **INQUIRIES:**

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the <u>FIA Policy Information Request Form</u> found on Knowledge Base or via email at <u>fia.policy@maryland.gov</u> for Montgomery County only.

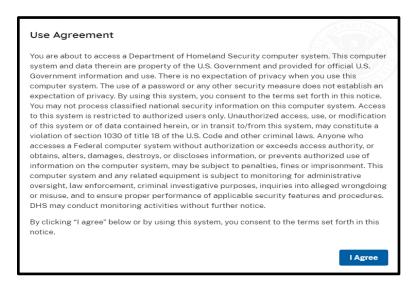
Please email Medical Assistance policy questions to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Division of Eligibility Policy at mdh.oesinquiries@maryland.gov.

For systems questions, please email fia.bsdm@maryland.gov.

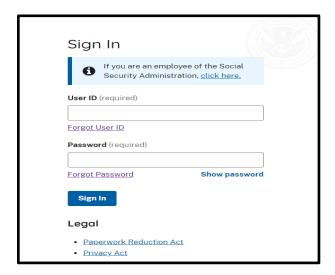
cc: DHS Executive Staff
Constituent Services
DHS Help Desk
FIA Management Staff
MDH OES Management Staff
Office of Administrative Hearings

## Overview Steps for Processing a case through SAVE.

- 1. Access the SAVE website <u>here</u> to sign in.
- 2. Click the "I agree" checkbox and click "Next."



3. Sign in- enter username and password and hit sign in.



4. The Welcome screen will appear. To start a case search, click "Create a New Case." You can also search for cases with previous requests by selecting "Search Cases."



- 5. Enter the following information:
  - a. First and Last Name

#### b. Date of Birth

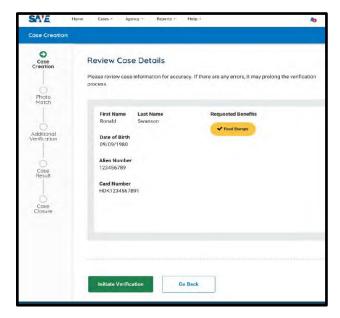
At least one immigration identifier (example –Alien Number). Providing more than one immigration identifier increases the likelihood SAVE will immediately respond with the benefit applicant's immigration status. If an incorrect number format is entered, the field will be highlighted with an error message.



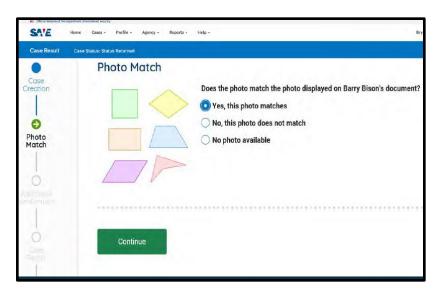
6. Select all the benefits and additional information the applicant is requesting. Additional information may be automatically requested if needed to determine eligibility for a selected benefit. Select any additional information. Click Continue. The benefit and any additional information request options will depend upon your agency's SAVE configuration and authorization.



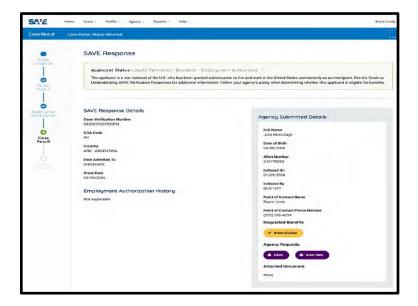
7. Review the information entered from the previous page for accuracy. If the information displayed is accurate, select Initiate Verification. To change an entry, click Go Back on the bottom of the page.



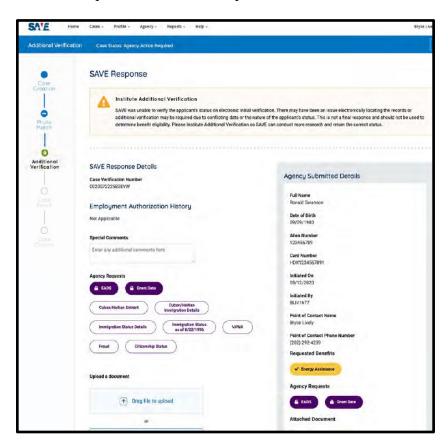
8. SAVE <u>may</u> present the photo match screen if your agency is configured to use it, and USCIS has a photo on file that matches one in the applicant's immigration documentation. SAVE will present a copy of the photo it has on file. Indicate whether the photo matches the photo in the immigration documentation presented by the benefit applicant. Select Continue.



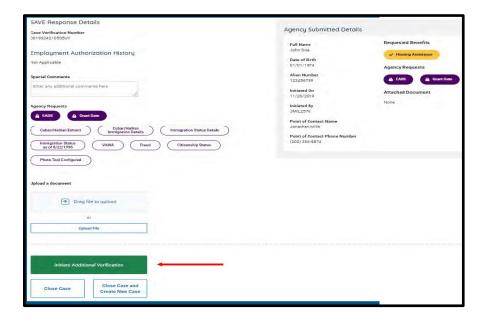
9. If SAVE has verified the applicant's status based on the information submitted, SAVE will respond with the applicant's immigration or naturalized/derived citizenship status. Select Initiate Additional Verification if fraud is suspected, or if there is a disagreement with the SAVE response.



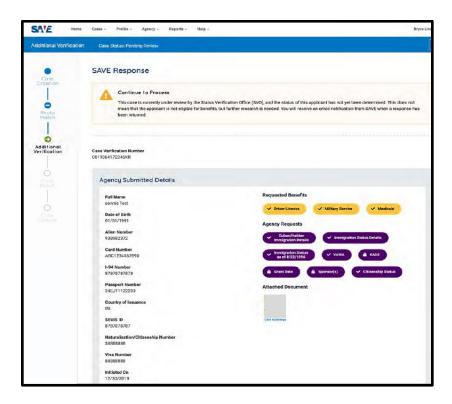
10. If SAVE is unable to immediately verify the applicant's status based upon the information provided, SAVE will provide an Institute Additional Verification response.



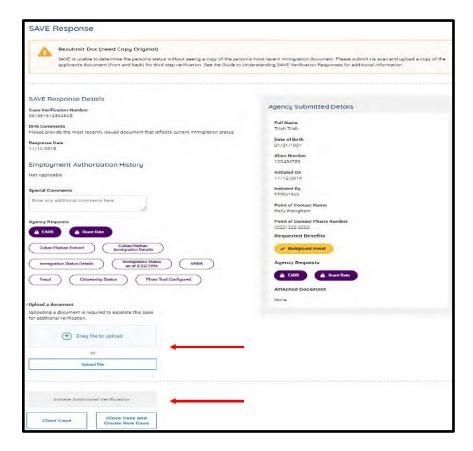
11. Select Initiate Additional Verification to submit the case for additional verification.



12. SAVE will provide a Continue to Process response if a SAVE case requires further research if status verification personnel are unable to determine the applicant's status based upon currently available information. SAVE will provide another response after the research is complete. This may be the applicant's immigration status or Resubmit Document.



13. SAVE may provide a Resubmit with Docs response if you did not upload a copy of the applicant's immigration documentation when submitting the case for additional verification, as SAVE needs that to resolve the case. In this situation, upload a copy of the front and back of the applicant's immigration documentation, and select Initiate Additional Verification.



14. From here you can either close out this search by clicking "Close Case" or if you need to review another case you can select "Close Case and Create New Case."

# **Additional Resources and Contact Options**

# Additional Resources

Program Guide

Guide to Understanding SAVE Verification Responses

Guide on Immigration Documents Commonly Used by Benefit Applicants

Other Guides and Tip Sheets

**SAVE Program Announcements** 

All of these resources are available through the SAVE system and by request to <a href="mailto:SAVE.help@uscis.dhs.gov">SAVE.help@uscis.dhs.gov</a>

## **Contact Options**

SAVE Website

www.uscis.gov/save

**USCIS** Website

www.uscis.gov

SAVE Email

SAVE.help@uscis.dhs.gov

SAVE Program Assistance (877) 469-2563

Technical Assistance (800) 741-5023