

## 8.6 NON-DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS

A client may not receive Food Stamps, TANF, WV WORKS or Medicaid concurrently in more than one county in West Virginia or more than one state. In addition, he may not receive different types of benefits in more than one county or state at the same time, except as specified below. The possibility of intentional misrepresentation must be explored when it is discovered that the client is receiving benefits of any type in more than one county at the same time. See Common Chapters Manual for procedures involving misrepresentation.

In some cases involving county transfers, different types of benefits may legitimately be received in different counties.

**EXAMPLE:** A TANF case without Food Stamps is active in County 98. The client requests his case be transferred to County 99. Before the transfer is completed, the client requests Food Stamps in County 99. Because the Worker can determine that benefits will not be duplicated, the client is approved for Food Stamps in County 99 and has Food Stamps added to the TANF case, once the transfer is complete.

There are some disqualification penalties for those who intentionally receive duplicate benefits. These vary by program, as follows.

### A. FOOD STAMPS

An individual who has made a fraudulent statement or representation about his identity or place of residence in order to receive multiple Food Stamp benefits simultaneously, is ineligible to receive Food Stamps for a 10-year period. The 10-year period begins on the date the client is found guilty in a federal or state court or in an ADH. This applies to multiple benefits received in more than one state or in the same state. Conviction of, or ADH finding of, attempting to receive such multiple benefits carries the same disqualification penalty as actual receipt of the benefits.

### B. TANF AND WV WORKS

An individual who has made a fraudulent statement or representation about his place of residence in order to receive TANF, WV WORKS, Food Stamps, Medicaid or SSI benefits simultaneously from 2 or more states, is ineligible to receive TANF or WV WORKS benefits for a

10-year period. The 10-year period begins on the date the individual is convicted in federal or state court. This does not apply when multiple benefits are received in the same state.

C. MEDICAID

There are no disqualification penalties for receipt of duplicate benefits.