

The individual is considered a resident of an institution when the institution provides the majority of their meals, which is defined as over 50% of three meals daily, as part of the institution's normal services, and the institution has not been authorized to accept Food Stamp benefits.

**NOTE:** A school dormitory is considered an institution. Therefore, any student who resides in a school dormitory and receives the majority of his meals from the institution's meal plan is ineligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program. **This includes, but is not limited to, colleges and military and boarding schools, even when the student returns home for weekends.** See the exemptions below for those who do not receive the majority of their meals from the institution.

The following groups are exempt from this policy:

- **Narcotic addicts** or **alcoholics** who reside at a facility or treatment center under the supervision of a drug or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program. See Chapter 14 for specific instructions for these groups.
- Individuals who reside in a Group Living Facility (GLF). See Chapters 9 and 14 for the definition of a GLF and for instructions regarding which residents of a GLF qualify.
- Residents of shelters for battered women and their children. The facility must be a public or private non-profit facility that exclusively serves battered women and their children or, if the shelter also serves other groups of individuals, a portion of the facility must be set aside, on a long-term basis, to shelter battered women and children. In addition, the facility must be a residence, not simply a place to eat meals. **See Chapters 9 and 14.**
- Residents of institutions who do not receive their meals from the institution, but who purchase and prepare their own food, or participate in a delivered meals program or a communal dining program are eligible, if they meet all other eligibility requirements. This includes those students who reside in school dormitories with optional meal plans and do not receive the majority of their meals from the institution.
- Residents of federally-subsidized housing for the elderly, built under either Section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 or Section 236 of the National Housing Act qualify, if otherwise eligible.
- Residents of public or private non-profit shelters for homeless persons qualify, if otherwise eligible. **See Chapter 14.**

### 3. Prolonged Absence From The Home

Regardless of the reason for the absence, any person expected to be absent from the home for a full calendar month or more is not eligible to be included in the AG.

**NOTE:** This policy applies to in-state and out-of-state travel.

Although an individual may meet the residency requirement, he may not be eligible to be included in the AG. Refer to Chapter 9 for specific requirements about who may be included in the AG.

#### a. Visiting

Temporary visits with the intent to return, do not affect the individual's place of residence, unless he has been or is expected to be absent from the home for a full calendar month.

**EXAMPLE:** A child is residing in West Virginia with his mother and is included in her Food Stamp AG. On June 22 he goes to Ohio to visit his father and will remain for an undetermined amount of time. As of July 31, he is still in Ohio. Notice is sent to remove him from his mother's AG.

**EXAMPLE:** A divorced man and woman both live in West Virginia. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the woman reports her oldest child will be visiting his father during summer vacation from June 11 to September 1. After proper notice, the oldest child is removed from the woman's AG for July and August, because he will be absent from the home for those two full calendar months. The father reports the presence of the child on June 10<sup>th</sup> and requests that he be added to his Food Stamp benefits. The child is added as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### b. Obtaining Vocational Training or Education

Absence from the home to obtain vocational training or education does not affect the individual's inclusion in the AG, unless the individual has been or is expected to be absent from the home for a full calendar month.

#### c. Receiving Medical Care

If the individual temporarily leaves the home to obtain medical care or treatment, he is included in the AG, unless he has been or is expected to be absent from the home for a full calendar month.