PURPOSE| POLICY | DEFINITIONS | PROCEDURE| REFERENCES | ATTACHMENTS

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ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY ADULT SERVICES POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Program: In-Home Supportive Services Number: SH 40.3.4

Subject: Restaurant Meal Allowance Date: 06/11/07

Approved: Signature On File Replaces: SH 3.1.2

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I. PURPOSE

To provide policy and instructions on the authorization of the IHSS Restaurant Meal Allowance.

II. POLICY

The hours authorized for In-Home Supportive Services are to be based on careful assessment of an individual's needs. IHSS social workers will assess whether the recipient is capable of safely preparing his/her own meals in his/her own kitchen. When the meal preparation hours are needed, the eligible aged or disabled recipient should be advised of the option to elect to receive a Restaurant Meal Allowance to pay for the preparation of food outside the home, instead of the appropriate hours for in-home preparation, clean-up and food shopping to which the recipient is otherwise entitled.

III. DEFINITIONS

Adequate Cooking Facilities: Having inside the home a stove and a refrigerator that are in working condition.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. ASSESSMENT OF NEED

Specific conditions must be met for an IHSS recipient to be eligible for the restaurant meal allowance option:

- 1. The IHSS recipient must be aged or disabled; recipients whose eligibility is based on blindness (IHSS aid code 20 or 28) are not eligible.
- 2. Social worker shall first assess the need for meal preparation, clean up, and food shopping following regular assessment guidelines, including alternative resources. If any assessed need exists, the recipient may be eligible for Restaurant Meal Allowance.
- 3. The IHSS recipient must have adequate cooking facilities at home and must be prevented from using those facilities by his/her age or disability. When the aged or disabled recipient does not have adequate cooking facilities at home, the restaurant meal allowance must come from the State Supplementary Program (SSP) and the recipient should be referred to the Social Security office.
- 4. Aged and disabled persons who receive a restaurant meal allowance from SSI/SSP or IHSS are excluded from any IHSS authorized hours for meal preparation, clean up, and shopping for food. Individuals who receive restaurant meal allowance from SSI/SSP have a combination of **A-C** for the SSI Living Arrangement Code and Optional Living Arrangement Code on the INQX screen (see Attachment A).
- 5. Under no circumstances shall a recipient receive a restaurant meal allowance simultaneously from both SSI/SSP and the IHSS Program.
- B. ALTERNATIVE RESOURCES
- 1. Restaurant Meal Allowance is considered an alternative resource in accordance with MPP 30-763.6.
- 2. Clients who participate in a nutritional program that meets their full nutritional needs (that provides 21 meals per week) at no mandatory costs to them are not eligible for the Restaurant Meal Allowance.
- C. DOCUMENTATION

When authorizing Restaurant Meal Allowance, IHSS Social Worker will:

- 1. Document in the case record that client has adequate cooking facilities, but is prevented from using them because of his/her disability.
- 2. Enter the number of hours that would otherwise be authorized for Meal Preparation, Clean Up, and Grocery Shopping.
- 3. Select "Yes" for "Restaurant Meal" on the back of the Assessment Worksheet and circle "Y" in field ZZ(6) (Meal Allow) of the SOC 293. The worksheet and CMIPS will subtract the hours for meal related services.
- D. PAYMENT
- 1. Current IHSS Restaurant Meal Allowance is as follows:
- Individual: \$62.00 per month.
- Couple: \$124.00 per month.
- 2. The IHSS recipient is paid half of the Restaurant Meal Allowance each pay period through the IHSS payroll system.
- 3. Restaurant Meal Allowance checks are issued to client or his/her authorized representative listed in field D(4) (Guardian/Conservator) of the SOC 293.
- 4. When the recipient received an allowance for the purchase of restaurant meals and used none of the allowance for that purpose, or if the recipient was ineligible for a restaurant meal allowance he/she received due to ineligibility for IHSS, the entire amount is an overpayment (MPP 30-768.25). See SH 40.7.3 RECIPIENT OVERPAYMENT/UNDERPAYMENT for overpayment processing.

V. REFERENCES

California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP)

30-757.133(a): Restaurant Meal Allowance

· 30-768.25: Overpayment Of Restaurant Meal Allowance

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 12303.7

VI. ATTACHMENTS

A. INQX Sample Of Living Arrangement Codes