

b. The title to the homestead was transferred to the individual's spouse or child who is under age 21 or is blind or totally and permanently disabled according to a determination made by the department's bureau of social security disability insurance;

c. It is shown to the satisfaction of the department that the individual intended to dispose of the homestead either at fair market value or for other valuable consideration; or

d. It is determined by the department that the denial of eligibility would work undue hardship on the individual.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; renum. from HSS 103.02 and am., cr. (1), Register, April, 1990, No. 412, eff. 5-1-90.

HSS 103.065 Divestment on or after August 9, 1989. (1) APPLICABILITY. This section applies to all institutionalized applicants for and recipients of MA who dispose of resources at less than fair market value on or after August 9, 1989, except for inter-spousal transfers occurring before October 1, 1989. Section HSS 103.063 applies to all applicants and recipients who divested before August 9, 1989 and to inter-spousal transfers occurring before October 1, 1989.

(2) **PURPOSE.** This section implements s. 49.45 (17), Stats., which provides for a period of restricted MA coverage when an individual who is institutionalized or becomes institutionalized disposes of a resource at less than fair market value.

(3) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) "Community spouse" means a person who is married to an institutionalized individual but is not himself or herself an institutionalized individual.

(b) "Institutionalized individual" means an applicant or recipient who is an inpatient in an SNF or ICF, an inpatient in a medical institution and with respect to whom payment is made based on a level of care provided in an SNF or ICF, or receiving home and community-based care MA services under ss. 49.46 and 49.47, Stats.

(c) "Medical assistance" or "MA" means payment for services provided to a resident of an SNF or ICF under s. HSS 107.09 (2) and (4) (a), payment to a medical institution as defined under 42 CFR 435.1009 for care based on a level of care provided in an SNF or ICF, or payment for services provided under a home and community-based care waiver program authorized under 42 USC 1396n (c).

(d) "Medical assistance card services" means the services covered under ch. HSS 107, except for services reimbursed as institutional care, as defined by s. HSS 107.09 (2) and (4) (a), services received in an SNF or ICF or a medical institution and services reimbursed under a home and community-based care waiver program authorized under 42 USC 1396n (c).

(e) "Resource" has the meaning given in 42 USC 1382b, except that the home, as defined in s. HSS 101.03 (75), is a nonexempt resource.

(4) **DIVESTMENT.** (a) *Divestment resulting in ineligibility.* An institutionalized individual or someone acting on behalf of that individual who disposes of a resource at less than fair market value within 30 months

immediately before or at any time after the individual becomes institutionalized if the individual is receiving MA on the date he or she becomes institutionalized or, if the individual is not a recipient on that date, within 30 months immediately before or at any time after the date the individual applies for MA while institutionalized, shall be determined to have divested. A divestment results in ineligibility for MA unless made to an exempt party under par. (b) or (c) or when one of the circumstances in par. (d) exist. In this paragraph, "receiving" means entitled to receive as well as actually receiving, in the same way that "recipient" as defined in s. HSS 101.03 (150) means a person who is entitled to receive benefits under MA as defined under s. HSS 101.03 (95).

(b) *Permitted divestment to an exempt party — homestead property.* Transfer of homestead property at less than fair market value is not divestment resulting in ineligibility under this section if the individual transferred title to the homestead property to:

1. The spouse of the institutionalized individual on or after October 1, 1989;

2. A child of the institutionalized individual who is under age 21 or who meets the SSI definition of total and permanent disability or blindness under 42 USC 1382c;

3. A sibling of the institutionalized individual who has an equity interest in the homestead and who was residing in the institutionalized individual's home for at least one year immediately before the date the individual became an institutionalized individual. In this subdivision, "equity interest" means ownership interest in a homestead by one or more persons who pay or have paid all or a portion of mortgage or land contract payments, expenses for upkeep and repair or payment of real estate taxes. The institutionalized individual shall provide documentation to verify the sibling's equity interest in the homestead; or

4. The child, other than a child described in subd. 2, of the institutionalized individual who was residing in the institutionalized individual's home for a period of at least 2 years immediately before the date the individual became an institutionalized individual and who provided care to the institutionalized individual which permitted him or her to reside at home rather than in an SNF, ICF or medical institution which receives payment based on a level of care provided in an SNF or ICF. The institutionalized individual shall provide a notarized statement to the agency from his or her physician or another person or persons who have personal knowledge of the living circumstances of the institutionalized individual stating that the individual was able to remain in his or her home because of the care provided by the child. A notarized statement only from the child does not satisfy the requirements of this subdivision.

(c) *Permitted divestment to an exempt party — non-homestead property.* Transfer of a non-homestead resource at less than fair market value is not divestment resulting in ineligibility under this section if the individual transferred the resource to one of the following individuals:

1. Beginning October 1, 1989, to the community spouse or to another individual for the sole benefit of the community spouse after the individual became an institutionalized individual;

2. To a minor or adult child of the institutionalized individual who meets the SSI definition of total and permanent disability or blindness under 42 USC 1382c; or

3. Beginning October 1, 1989, to the individual's spouse or to another person for the sole benefit of the individual's spouse before the individual became an institutionalized individual. Such a transfer is not considered divestment resulting in ineligibility for as long as the individual's spouse does not transfer the resource to another person other than his or her spouse at less than fair market value. The individual's spouse shall report any transfer of the resource to the agency within 10 days after the transfer is made as required under s. 49.12 (9), Stats. Failure of the institutionalized individual's spouse to report the transfer may be fraud under s. 49.49 (1) (a) 3, Stats.

(d) *Circumstances under which divestment is not a barrier to eligibility.* An institutionalized individual who has been determined to have made a prohibited divestment under this section shall be found ineligible for MA as defined under s. HSS 101.03 (95) unless:

1. The transfer of property occurred as the result of a division of resources as part of a divorce or separation action, the loss of a resource due to foreclosure or the repossession of a resource due to failure to meet payments; or

2. It is shown to the satisfaction of the department that one of the following occurred:

a. The individual intended to dispose of the resource either at fair market value or for other valuable consideration;

b. The resource was transferred exclusively for some purpose other than to become eligible for MA;

c. The ownership of the divested property was returned to the individual who originally disposed of it; or

d. The denial or termination of eligibility would work an undue hardship. In this subparagraph, "undue hardship" means that a serious impairment to the institutionalized individual's immediate health status exists.

(5) DETERMINING THE PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY. An institutionalized individual who has made a prohibited divestment under this section as determined by the agency without a condition under sub. (4) (d) existing shall be ineligible for MA as defined in this section for, beginning with the month of divestment, the lesser of:

(a) Thirty months; or

(b) The number of months obtained by dividing the total uncompensated value of the transferred resources by the statewide average monthly cost to a private pay patient in an SNF at the time of application. In this paragraph, "total uncompensated value of the transferred resource" means the difference between the compensation received for the resource and the fair market value of the resource less any outstanding loans, mortgages or other encumbrances on the resource.

(6) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES. (a) The agency shall determine if an applicant or recipient who is ineligible for MA under this section is eligi-

ble for MA card services. The applicant or recipient's income eligibility shall be determined using the standards under s. HSS 103.04 (4).

(b) The agency shall monitor retention of assets by the non-institutionalized spouse under sub. (4) (c) 3 at each application or review of eligibility for the institutionalized spouse.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1990, No. 412, eff. 5-1-90.

HSS 103.07 Income. (1) **SPECIAL SITUATIONS OF INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS.** (a) *Support received by institutionalized persons.* 1. Any financial support or contribution received by an institutionalized person shall be considered available when determining the eligibility of that person for MA.

2. The income and assets of the parents of children under age 18 who reside in institutions shall be evaluated by the department to determine whether, pursuant to s. 46.10 (14), Stats., collections may be made from one or both parents. If the child is residing in an institution not specified in s. 46.10 (14), Stats., but the institution is approved to receive MA payments, the parental liability shall be the same as that provided in s. 46.10 (14), Stats., and collected in the same manner.

3. The agency shall decide if the spouse of an institutionalized applicant or recipient should be referred for support action under s. 52.01, Stats. When deciding whether to refer for support action, the agency shall consider the spouse's basic essential needs and present and future expenses. In no case may support from the spouse of an institutionalized applicant or recipient be pursued when the spouse's assets, not counting homestead property and a motor vehicle, are less than \$1,500 and when the spouse's income is less than monthly need as specified in par. (b) 1. and 2.

(b) *Allocation of institutionalized person's income to dependents outside the institution.* No allocation may be made from an institutionalized applicant's or recipient's income to a spouse who is eligible for SSI but who refuses to obtain SSI. No allocation may be made to a spouse or to minor children under the spouse's care if the spouse or any of the children are receiving AFDC or SSI. Otherwise, allocations shall be made as follows:

1. If the spouse is caring for a minor child for whom either the institutionalized person or the spouse is legally responsible, the AFDC assistance standard plus expenses that would be allowed under s. HSS 103.04 (3) shall be used to determine the need of the spouse and children. If their total net income is less than their need, income of the institutionalized person shall be allocated in an amount sufficient to bring the spouse's and children's income up to their monthly need. In this subdivision, "total net income" means income equal to unearned income plus net earned income, and "net earned income" means income equal to gross earned income minus work-related expenses according to requirements of AFDC. Income disregards of the AFDC program under 45 CFR 233.20 (a) shall be used as appropriate in computing income.

2. If the spouse is not caring for a minor child, the SSI payment level for one person living in that person's own household shall be used to determine the spouse's monthly need. The spouse's earned income shall be netted by subtracting the work-related expenses according to sub. (3) and \$20 from earned or unearned income or both. If the spouse's net income is less than the spouse's monthly need, income of the institutional-