



Department of Human Resources
311 W. Saratoga St.
Baltimore, MD. 21201-3521

FIA INFORMATION MEMO

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

FROM: CHARLES E. HENRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**RE: REMOVAL OF EXPIRATION DATES FROM CERTIFICATION LETTERS
FOR VICTIMS OF SEVERE TRAFFICKING**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: ALL PROGRAMS

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the agency designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct certification activities for immigrant victims of trafficking, has advised that **as of November 6, 2001 the certification letters given to victims of trafficking will no longer have an expiration date.**

Certification Letters

Individuals certified **on or after November 6, 2001** will receive letters without an expiration date. Individuals certified before November 6, 2001 received letters with an 8-month expiration date. As these certification letters expire ORR will issue recertification letters without expiration dates. Recertification letters contain a lower case "r" beside the HHS tracking number. The recertification letter confirms that the individual continues to meet certification requirements as a victim of severe trafficking. The original "entry date" remains the same.

Benefits

The recertification letter **does not grant** victims of a severe form of trafficking an **additional eligibility period for any benefits and services**. Standard eligibility and/or redetermination periods under the various benefit programs will continue to apply to these individuals in the same manner as they apply to refugees.

Policy

There are **no changes to the policy** regarding immigrant victims of trafficking or the **CARES procedures**. Please refer to AT #02-17 issued September 11, 2001 for additional information.

INQUIRIES

Please direct food stamp questions to Marilyn Lorenzo (410) 767-7333, TCA questions to Edna McAbier (410) 767-7495, TEMHA questions to Rick McClendon (410) 767-7889 and MA questions to Cynthia Davis (410) 767-7495.

cc: DHR Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
OIM Help Desk
RESI