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Outreach

Communities Connecting Kids With Health Coverage

New Medicaid Requirement

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New Medicaid Requirement

On February 8, 2006 the President signed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). Among the significant changes that the DRA makes to Medicaid is the addition of a new federal requirement, effective July 1, 2006, that all US citizens and nationals applying for or renewing their Medicaid coverage provide documentation of their citizenship and identity. They will be asked to submit one document for both proof of citizenship and identity, or two documents; one for citizenship and one for identity.

Common Documents Used to Prove Citizenship and Identity

U.S. Citizenship Documents	Identity Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A birth certificate; or ■ An official hospital birth record. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A state driver's license; ■ A state issued ID card; or <p><i>For children age 16 or under:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A student ID card; or ■ A school record with the place and date of birth and parent's name listed; or ■ A doctor, clinic, or hospital record with the date of birth listed; or ■ As a last resort, a signed statement from the parent or guardian. (<i>Ask the eligibility worker for an official form.</i>)
A U.S. passport can be used for both citizenship and identity	



A longer list of acceptable documents can be found on the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) web site at www.dss.state.va.us. Representatives from your local Department of Social Services can tell you what other documents may be acceptable. If a family is having difficulty obtaining one of the documents listed or has any questions, they should contact their eligibility worker. Whenever possible, the worker will allow additional time for the family to obtain the necessary documentation. Proof of citizenship and identity is only required one time. Copies will be made for the case record.

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is working with DSS and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to implement this new policy and has sought further guidance from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DSS will work with VDH to assist families in obtaining copies of birth certificates when the families have difficulty in obtaining them. DMAS will also send a letter to all individuals currently enrolled to notify them of this new requirement.

This new law **does not** apply to those enrolled in the FAMIS, FAMIS MOMS, State and Local Hospitalization, and Refugee Medical Assistance programs. It also does not apply to parents and guardians of enrollees who do not receive Medicaid.

