

In (d)2, substituted "Medical Review Team" for "Disability Review Section"; in (i), substituted "beneficiaries" for "recipients". Amended by R.2001 d.199, effective June 18, 2001. See: 32 N.J.R. 2021(a), 33 N.J.R. 2195(a).

In (a), rewrote the introductory paragraph; in (b), inserted "shall" preceding "apply" in the introductory paragraph. Petition for Rulemaking: Transfer of Resources. See: 39 N.J.R. 2157(a).

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Marital Status and The 60+ Crowd. Elizabeth Brody. 164 N.J.Law 39 (Mag.) (Oct.1994).

Protecting the Home In Government Benefits Planning. Gary Mazart, 164 N.J.L.J. 34 (1994).

Case Notes

Since federal and state Medicaid laws permit interspousal transfers of the marital home, a guardian may execute such a transfer provided that it complies with the best interest of the ward inclusive of his desire to benefit the natural objects of his bounty. Matter of Labis, 314 N.J.Super. 140, 714 A.2d 335 (N.J. 1998).

House sale made exclusively for purpose other than to qualify for Medicaid prior to traumatic onset of unforeseen disability. M.M. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services and the Bergen County Board of Social Services, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 39.

Reimbursement of Medicaid benefits ordered where recipient transferred his interest in former residence for less than fair market value. J.K. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 12.

Nursing home applicant entitled to Medicaid benefits after transferring property to adult children who lived in home longer than two years and provided personal services to applicant. M.M. v. Department of Medical Assistance and Health Services and Burlington County Welfare Board, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 6.

1990 transfer of property was effective for purposes of Medicaid eligibility despite delayed recording of deed. L.A. v. Bergen County Board of Social Services, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 92.

Medicaid applicant's transfer of home to son for less than fair market value did not disqualify her for benefits. L.S. v. DMAHS and Burlington County Board of Social Services, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 11.

Son's long-term care of disabled parents supports exemption for Medicaid eligibility purposes of transfer of their house to him. J.L. v. Medical Assistance and Health Services Division, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 5.

Funds in fixed annuity and family trust were not countable or accessible resources for purpose of determining Medicaid eligibility. F.E. v. Division of Medical Assistance, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 67.

Transfer of real property for less than true value raised presumption of transfer to obtain Medicaid benefits. P.V. v. Camden County Board, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 38.

Presumption of transfer of assets for less than fair market value in order to establish applicant's Medicaid eligibility was not rebutted. S.G. v. Division of Medical Assistance, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 33.

Transfer by applicant of his interest in a mortgage within 24 months of application did not preclude his eligibility for Medicaid benefits. A.R. v. Passaic County, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 21.

Securities transferred by recipient were not a resource for Medicaid eligibility when solely for purpose of repaying a loan. W.B. v. Dmahs & Atlantic County, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 17.

Transfer of a resource, a mortgage, held on a condominium for less than fair market value operated to render applicant ineligible for Medicaid benefits. C.M. v. Division of Medical Assistance, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 14.

Transfer of securities was not a countable resource in determining Medicaid eligibility. Applewood Estates v. Division of Medical Assistance, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 1.

Institutional level services Medicaid eligibility; penalty period of 30 months; couple sold house to children at less than fair market value. G.A. v. Ocean County Board of Social Services, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 45.

Trust was Medicaid qualifying trust, and application for Medicaid was properly denied. C.C. v. Bergen County Board of Social Services, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (INS) 31.

Presumption that transfer of home was made solely to qualify for Medicaid rebutted. A.W. v. Morris County Board of Social Services, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 22.

There was failure to rebut presumption that marital assets were transferred for less than fair market value in order to contravene eligibility guidelines. S.G. v. Union County Division of Social Services, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 13.

Medicaid eligibility denied; presumption that property was transferred to establish eligibility. M.C. v. DMAHS, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 1.

Transfer of property to children preserving life estate was prohibited transfer of resources. C.D. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 91.

Reduction in alimony pursuant to consent order was transfer of resources. B.S. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 35.

Husband's estate funds were available to pay wife's nursing home costs. L.S. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 7.

Presumption that transfer of three-family building was for purpose other than to establish Medicaid eligibility was not rebutted. E.B. v. Hudson County Board of Social Services, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 13.

Penalty period for transfer of resources governed by regulations in effect on date of transfer. H.P. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 7.

10:71-4.8 Institutional eligibility; resources of a couple

(a) In the determination of resource eligibility for an individual requiring long-term care, the county board of social services shall establish the combined countable resources of a couple as of the first period of continuous institutionalization beginning on or after September 30, 1989. This determination shall be made upon request for a resource assessment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.9 or at the time of application for Medicaid benefits. The total countable resources of the couple shall include all resources owned by either member of the couple individually or together. The county board of social services shall establish a share of the resources to be attributed to the community spouse in accordance with this section. (No community spouse's share of resources may be established if the institutionalized individual's current continuous period of institutionalization began at any time before September 30, 1989.)

1. The community spouse's share of the couple's combined countable resources is based on the couple's countable resources as of the first moment of the first day of the month of the current period of institutionalization beginning on or after September 30, 1989 and shall not exceed \$95,100, as indexed annually in accordance with 42 U.S.C. §1396r-5(g) and published as a notice in the New Jersey Register, and unless authorized in (a)4 or 5 below. The community spouse's share of the couple's resources shall be the greater of:

i. \$19,020, as indexed annually in accordance with 42 U.S.C. §1396r-5(g) and published as a notice in the New Jersey Register; or

ii. One half of the couple's combined countable resources.

2. In determining the resource eligibility of the institutionalized spouse, the community spouse's share of the resources is subtracted from couple's total combined resources as of the first moment of the first day of the month of application for Medicaid. If the remaining resources are less than or equal to \$2,000, the institutionalized spouse is resource eligible. If the remaining resources exceed \$2,000, eligibility may not be established.

i. In the case of an individual whose eligibility for institutional care is determined in accordance with the rules applicable for New Jersey Care (see N.J.A.C. 10:72 et seq.), resource eligibility will exist when the couple's combined resources, less the community spouse's share of the resources, are equal to or less than \$4,000.

3. To the extent that the community spouse's share of the combined resources are not already owned by the community spouse, the ownership of the community spouse's share of the resources must be transferred to the community spouse within 90 days of a determination of eligibility for institutional Medicaid services. The CBOSS may extend the transfer period if individual circumstances warrant a longer period to affect the transfer. Resources not transferred by the end of the 90-day period (or extension) shall be counted in the determination of eligibility for the institutionalized individual.

i. Eligibility for the institutionalized individual shall be established pending the actual transfer of the resources if he or she attests, in writing, that he or she intends to transfer the community spouse's share of the resources to the community spouse.

4. If a court of competent jurisdiction has ordered that resources be transferred to the community spouse in an amount higher than that authorized in (a)1 above, the higher court-ordered amount shall be recognized as the community spouse's share. Any resource transferred under such a court order shall not be subject to the resource transfer penalty described at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.7.

5. If, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.7(d), additional resources have been authorized to be set aside for the

community spouse in order to provide for a sufficient income maintenance level, such additional resources are not subject to the limitation in this section on the community spouse's share of the couple's combined resources. Any resource transferred to the community spouse under this provision shall not be subject to the resource transfer provision described at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.7.

6. For purposes of this section, an institutionalized individual does not include any individual who is not likely to remain in a Title XIX facility for a period of 30 consecutive days. If a physician has not certified that the individual's stay in the facility is expected to be a period of 30 or more consecutive days, that individual's Medicaid eligibility will be determined as if he or she continued to reside in the community until he or she has been in a Title XIX facility (or a combination of Title XIX facilities) for a period of 30 consecutive days.

7. For purposes of this section, a continuous period of institutionalization means 30 consecutive days of institutional care in a medical institution, and/or Medicaid funded home and community-based waiver services. Continuity is broken by absences from the institution for 30 consecutive days or the non-receipt of home or community based services for 30 consecutive days.

8. For purposes of determining the community spouse's share of the couple's resources only, countable resources of a couple shall include all resources not subject to exclusion under N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.4, except that one automobile shall be excluded without regard to the dollar limits set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.4(b)2 and personal effects and household goods shall be excluded without regard to the dollar limits set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.4(b)3.

9. In determining retroactive eligibility (the three-month period immediately preceding the month of application) based on the first Medicaid application in a continuous period of institutionalization, the community spouse's share of the resources shall be deducted from the couple's combined total resources. If the institutionalized individual subsequently files another Medicaid application for the same continuous period of institutionalization, retroactive eligibility will be based on all resources actually owned by the institutionalized individual.

New Rule, R.1991 d.32, effective January 22, 1991.

See: 22 N.J.R. 7(a), 23 N.J.R. 215(b).

Emergency Amendment, R.1992 d.84, effective January 22, 1992, operative January 1, 1992, (expires March 22, 1992).

See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a).

Resource eligibility revised upward.

Adopted concurrent amendment, R.1992 d.191, effective April 20, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a), 24 N.J.R. 1498(b).

Provisions of emergency amendment, R.1992 d.84, readopted without change.

Amended by R.1993 d.402, effective August 16, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1818(a), 25 N.J.R. 3786(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.428, effective August 15, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1754(a), 26 N.J.R. 3478(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.46, effective January 16, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 3668(a), 28 N.J.R. 291(a).

In (a)1 and (a)1i resource eligibility revised upward.

the county board of social services within 20 days of notification of the transfer penalty.

1. For the purposes of this chapter, undue hardship shall be considered to exist when:

i. The application of the transfer of assets provisions would deprive the applicant/beneficiary of medical care such that his or her health or his or her life would be endangered. Undue hardship may also exist when application of the transfer of assets provisions would deprive the individual of food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities of life; and

ii. The applicant/beneficiary can irrefutably demonstrate the transferred assets are beyond his or her control and that the assets cannot be recovered. The applicant/beneficiary shall demonstrate that he or she made good faith efforts, including exhaustion of remedies available at law or in equity, to recover the assets transferred.

2. Undue hardship shall not exist when the application of a transfer penalty merely causes the applicant/beneficiary an inconvenience or restricts his or her lifestyle.

3. In the event that a waiver of undue hardship is denied, neither the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health and Senior Services, nor the county boards of social services shall have any obligation to take any action to assure that payment of services is provided during the penalty period.

4. If the request for undue hardship consideration is denied by the CBOSS, the CBOSS shall notify the applicant of the denial and that the applicant may request a fair hearing in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 10:49-10.

New Rule, R.2001 d.199, effective June 18, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2021(a), 33 N.J.R. 2195(a).

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1456(a), 2532(b).

Amended by R.2004 d.401, effective November 1, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 922(b), 36 N.J.R. 4982(a).

In (m), rewrote 1, and substituted "\$15,000" for "\$12,000" throughout 4.

Amended by R.2006 d.133, effective November 6, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3774(a), 37 N.J.R. 4505(a), 38 N.J.R. 4712(a).

In (m)1, substituted "2005" for "2003" and substituted "\$6,525" for "\$6,050"; and deleted (p)2i.

Petition for Rulemaking: Transfer of Assets.

See: 39 N.J.R. 2157(a).

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Saving the family home. Harold L. Grodberg, 164 N.J.L.J. 1166 (2001).

Case Note

Medicaid applicants' challenge to state-payback requirement for community spouse annuity trusts (CSATs), whereby state was required to be named first beneficiary of trust assets upon death of spouse residing in community if it had paid benefits on behalf of institutionalized spouse, was moot, where, upon its decision to count CSAT assets in determining Medicaid eligibility, state no longer imposed state-payback condition. Johnson v. Guhl, 357 F.3d 403.

10:71-4.11 Trusts

(a) For purposes of this subchapter, effective June 18, 2001, a trust is any legal instrument, device, or arrangement which is similar to a trust, in which a grantor transfers property to an individual or entity with fiduciary obligations (considered to be a trustee for purposes of this section). The grantor transfers the property with the intention that it be held, managed, or administered by the trustee for the benefit of the grantor or others. For the purposes of this chapter, a trust shall include, but not be limited to, escrow accounts, annuities, investment accounts, and other similar devices managed by an individual or entity with fiduciary obligations.

(b) The standards set forth in this section shall apply to trusts without regard to:

1. The purposes for which the trust is established;
2. Whether the trustee(s) has discretion or exercises such discretion under the trust;
3. Any restrictions on when or whether distribution can be made from the trust; or
4. Any restrictions on the use of distributions from the trust.

(c) Definitions, for the purposes of this section, shall be as follows:

1. A grantor shall be any individual who creates a trust. This section shall apply only to situations in which the grantor is:
 - i. The individual;
 - ii. The individual's spouse;
 - iii. A person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of, or on behalf of, the individual or the individual's spouse; or
 - iv. A person, including a court or administrative body, acting at the direction or upon the request of the individual or the individual's spouse.

2. A revocable trust is a trust which can, under State law, be revoked by the grantor. A trust, which provides that the trust can be only modified or terminated by a court, is considered to be a revocable trust, since the grantor (or his or her representative) can petition the court to terminate the trust. Also, a trust that declares itself to be irrevocable, but which terminates upon conditions relating to the grantor during his or her lifetime, shall be, for the purposes of this section, considered to be revocable. For example, a trust may require a trustee to terminate a trust and disburse the funds to the grantor if the grantor leaves a nursing facility. Such a trust shall be considered to be revocable.

3. An irrevocable trust is a trust which cannot, in any way, be revoked by the grantor.

4. A beneficiary is any individual or individuals designated in the trust instrument as benefiting in some way from the trust. The term "beneficiary" shall not include the trustee or any other individual whose benefit consists only of reasonable fees or payments for managing or administering the trust. The beneficiary can be the grantor, another individual, or individuals, or any combination of any of these parties.

5. For purposes of this chapter, a payment from a trust shall be any disbursement from the corpus of the trust or from income generated by the trust which benefits the party receiving it. A payment may include actual cash, as well as noncash or property disbursements, such as the right to use or occupy real property.

(d) Individuals to whom the trust provisions apply shall include any individual who establishes a trust and who is an applicant or beneficiary of Medicaid. An individual shall be considered to have established a trust if any of his or her assets, regardless of the amount, were used to form part or all of the corpus of the trust and if any of the parties described as a grantor in (c)1 above established the trust, other than by will.

1. When the corpus of a trust includes assets of another person or persons not described in (c)1 above, as well as assets of the individual, the rules apply only to the portion of the trust attributable to the assets of the individual. Thus, in determining countable income and resources in the trust for eligibility and post-eligibility purposes, the county board of social services shall prorate any amounts of income and resources, based on the proportion of the individual's assets in the trust to those of other persons.

2. When the corpus of a trust includes assets of either an institutionalized spouse as defined in N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.7(b)3 or a community spouse, this section shall apply to the portion of the trust attributable to either spouse for the purposes of determining eligibility for the institutionalized spouse.

(e) Treatment of trusts, for purposes of determining Medicaid eligibility, shall be dependent on the characteristics of the trust. The look-back period for evaluation of resource transfer shall be 60 months. The following are the rules for consideration of various kinds of trusts:

1. In the case of a revocable trust:

i. The entire corpus of the trust shall be counted as a resource available to the individual;

ii. Any payments from the trust made to or for the benefit of the individual shall be counted as income

(unless otherwise excludable, see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3); and

iii. Any payments from the trust which are not made to or for the benefit of the individual shall be considered assets disposed of for less than fair market value (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.10).

2. In an irrevocable trust from which payment can be made under the terms of the trust to or for the benefit of the individual from all or a portion of the trust, the following shall apply to that trust or that portion of the trust:

i. Payments from income or from the corpus made to or for the benefit of the individual shall be treated as income to the individual unless otherwise excludable (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3);

ii. Income on the corpus of the trust which could be paid to or for the benefit of the individual shall be counted as a resource available to the individual;

iii. The portion of the corpus that could be paid to or for the benefit of the individual shall be treated as a resource available to the individual; and

iv. Payments from income or from the corpus that are made, but not to or for the benefit of the individual, shall be treated as a transfer of assets for less than fair market value (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.10).

3. In the case of an irrevocable trust from which payments from all or a portion of the trust cannot, under any circumstances, be made to or for the benefit of the individual, all of the trust, or any such portion or income thereof, shall be treated as a transfer of assets for less than fair market value (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.10).

i. In treating these portions as a transfer of assets, the date of transfer shall be considered to be the date the trust was established, or, if later, the date on which the right of payment to the individual was foreclosed.

ii. For transfer of assets purposes, in determining the value of the portion of the trust which cannot be paid to the individual, amounts that have been paid, for whatever purpose, shall not be subtracted from the value of the trust on the date the trust was created or, if later, the date that payment to the individual was foreclosed. The value of the transferred amount shall be no less than the value on the date the trust is established or on the date that payment is foreclosed. If additional funds are added to this portion of the trust, those funds shall be treated as a new transfer of assets or less than fair market value.