

#### **FAMILY INDEPENDENCE ADMINISTRATION**

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#### **POLICY DIRECTIVE #11-07-ELI**

(This Policy Directive Replaces PD #07-46-ELI and PB #04-155-SYS)

# IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS IN THE WELFARE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (WMS)

Date:	Subtopic(s):
February 16, 2011	Eligibility
AUDIENCE	The instructions in this policy directive are for staff in Job Centers and Non Cash Assistance Food Stamp (NCA FS) Centers and serve as information for all other staff.
REVISIONS TO THE PRIOR DIRECTIVE	This policy directive has been revised to provide instructions for processing cases that have a household member who has been listed as deceased on a Social Security Validation report. It has also been revised to include additional details concerning the processing of applicants/participants who fail to provide a Social Security Number (SSN).
POLICY	As a condition of eligibility for Cash Assistance (CA) and NCA FS benefits, the applicant/participant and all members of the CA and/or FS household must have a valid SSN or show proof of having applied for one. This includes parents, applying caretakers, children, and nonapplying household members whose needs and income are considered in determining the amount of assistance granted to the household.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE? Call 718-557-1313 then press 3 at the prompt followed by 1 or send an e-mail to *FIA Call Center Fax* or fax to: (917) 639-0298

#### **BACKGROUND**

Once an SSN is entered in the Paperless Office System (POS) and transmitted to the Welfare Management System (WMS), it becomes the primary identifier used in the computer matching programs that enable the Human Resources Administration (HRA) to identify and verify the income and resources of CA, NCA FS, and Medical Assistance (MA) applicants/participants.

It is essential that a valid SSN be present in WMS. A missing or inaccurate SSN can compromise the data obtained by the various computer matching programs.

When an individual's SSN is entered in WMS, the system compares the SSN and the individual's demographics to the information in the Social Security Administration (SSA) computer file in order to determine if the SSN is valid.

See the attached list of SSN Validation Codes and Required Actions (Attachment A).

To assist in determining and ensuring the validity of the SSN, SSN validation codes were developed (see **Attachment A**). These codes indicate whether or not the SSN is valid or if there are any discrepancies in information between WMS and SSA files. Some of the validation codes are system-generated and others are assigned by the Worker.

The POS Turn-Around Document (TAD) must contain an SSN validation code for every individual who has been accepted for CA, MA, and/or FS.

Reports

The State provides two system-generated reports to help track all SSN discrepancies and ensure that they are addressed. They are as follows:

- Social Security Validation Report (WINRO203) This bi-monthly report (see attached sample) identifies individuals whose SSNs in WMS have failed the SSA validation and require corrective action. The report is sorted by Center and Worker. It includes the Client Identification Number (CIN), SSN, first name, middle initial, last name, date of birth (DOB), and sex of those individuals with discrepant information.
- Wired Third Party Inquiry Report (WTPY/WINRO597) The WINRO597 is sorted by case/registry number and contains only the SSN discrepancies associated with a single case on each page so that cases having several incorrect SSNs can be handled as a unit. If the individual is in receipt of Retirement, Survivors or Disability Insurance (RSDI), the WINRO597 also provides confirmation of the benefit amount received.

The **WINRO597** report (see attached sample) is generated through the line printer in the Center's Control Unit and is available on the third business day after any of the following POS actions is taken:

- Application Intake
- Application Modification (change in demographics)
- Change Case Data (change in demographics)
- Internal clearance request

The appropriate corrective action to resolve the discrepancies identified by these reports must be taken within 45 days of the date of the report.

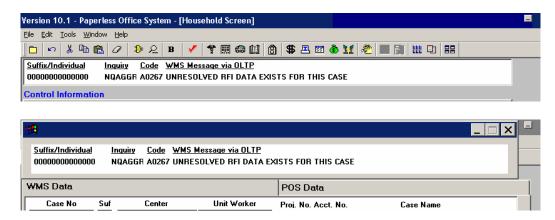
#### **RFI** Clearances

See the attached list of RFI Status/Resolution Codes (Attachment B).

In addition to the **WINRO203** and **WINRO597**, an external clearance report, the Resource File Integration (RFI) provides information regarding the validity of the SSN. The RFI is a clearance report that is WMS-generated. The RFI provides information such as Wage Reporting System (WRS), Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB), New Hire, and Bank matches, this clearance will indicate the validity of an SSN. It also indicates the amount of SSA benefits received and the SSN under which the benefits are received (such as dependent benefits of a child received under a parent's SSN), if applicable.

The RFI provides an electronic WTPY inquiry clearance viewable in WMS. An alert message will appear reading "Case has unresolved RFI data" in the upper right-hand section of the TAD and on the bottom of the WMS Inquiry screen to indicate the presence of RFI information that must be resolved prior to case acceptance.

**Note:** A similar message will also appear in the WMS Message area at the top of the Paperless Office System's (POS) **Household Screen** and in the **POS TAD** window as a pop-up message, as shown in the following two screen images.



#### REQUIRED ACTION

When a **WINRO203**, **WINRO597**, or RFI report is received and it indicates that the individual's demographic information does not match that of the SSA file, the Worker must check the information in WMS against the information documented in the case file.

In every instance when a correction in the WMS demographic information is made to resolve an SSN discrepancy, code 1 must be entered in Element 321 of the TAD.

• If the discrepancy is a result of an Agency error, the Worker must prepare a TAD to correct the discrepancy (incorrect DOB, last name, or SSN). As part of the TAD annotations to correct a discrepancy (regardless of the type of discrepancy), code 1 (SSN Present but Not Yet Validated) must be entered in Element 321. This will trigger a new check against SSA's file using the new demographic information.

Updating SSA file

- If the case file documentation confirms that the information on the WMS database is correct:
  - instruct the participant to report to an SSA office with the appropriate documentation to have the SSA correct the information in its file.
  - advise the participant that he/she must request a Receipt for Application for a Social Security Number (SSA-5028) from the SSA and that the SSA-5028 must be submitted to the Job Center/NCA FS Center.
  - prepare and give the participant the Documentation Requirements and/or Assessment Follow-up (W-113K) indicating the date (a minimum of 10 days must be allowed) by which the SSA-5028 must be provided.

**Note**: Individuals legally known by another name may choose the name by which they want to be known. However, they must use the same name for services (CA, FS, and/or MA) and SSA. For example, a married woman may choose to be known by her married name or maiden name, but not by both. If the name chosen is not the name on the Social Security card, the SSA file must be updated. The individual must be referred to a local SSA office to request a name change on the SSN. An updated Guide to Social Security Offices in New York City (**M-50b**) is attached. In addition, the SSA will issue SSNs to individuals with only one name (e.g. Yanni).

Updated M-50b

For noncitizens with one name (see PD #07-32-ELI)

 If the discrepancy is a result of the SSN in WMS being incorrect because one or more digits have been transposed, the discrepancy message "One Digit Error – Correct SSN..." will appear. In this message, the correct SSN will be displayed and a change in WMS to correct the number is required. The **W-205K** is used with **WINRO203**, **WINRO597**, and RFI to assist in resolving discrepancies.

If the discrepancy is not a result of Agency error, refer to the Social Security Validation Failure Review Guide (W-205K) for follow-up actions.

Referral to BFI

See <u>PD #07-03-OPE</u> for instructions on making referrals to BFI.

New Information

While many of the discrepancies will be due to errors in recording or data-entering the Social Security information, Workers should look out for situations involving fraud. If the SSN is listed as invalid on the WINRO203/WINRO597 and after review, the name on the Social Security card on file corresponds with the name the participant uses and the name in WMS, a referral to the Bureau of Fraud Investigation (BFI) must be made. When the referral to BFI is made, the JOS/Worker must not tell the participant about the referral for investigation.

#### **Deceased Household Members**

SSN validation code **X** (Deceased) is a system-generated code which is posted after a weekly interface with the SSA and WMS. The SSA will update WMS with code **X** whenever there is a "complete match" on name, Date of Birth (DOB), SSN, and sex, thus making this information "verified upon receipt". If a SSN validation yields a WMS system-generated code of **X** and the deceased person is the only individual listed on the active case, WMS closing code **G39** (Died) will be autoposted to the case. If an **X** appears on the case for a single person household and code **G39** has not been posted to WMS, the Worker must manually close the case using code **E95** (Died).

If a SSN validation yields a WMS code of **X** and the deceased person was a member of a multi-person household, the Worker must send the household a Notice to Report to Center (**M-3g**) (Job Centers) or a Food Stamps -Request for Contact/Missed Interview (**LDSS-4753**) (Food Stamp Centers). If the household responds to the request for contact, the Worker must remove the deceased household member from the case using WMS removal code **E95** and re-budget the CA and/or FS case accordingly. If the household does not respond to the request for contact in a timely manner, the Worker must proceed to close the case using WMS closing code **M25** (Failure to respond to a computer match call-in).

If the deceased household member was the caretaker of a minor child the Worker must:

 Send the household Form M-3g (Job Centers) or LDSS-4753 (Food Stamp Centers) addressed to both the deceased individual and to the family surname (e.g., Jane Smith c/o The Smith Family);

- Ask the prospective caretaker of to provide verification which confirms the death of the caretaker. Appropriate verification must consist of one of the following documents:
  - Death Certificate:
  - Funeral Bill; or
  - Letter from a funeral parlor.
- Ask the prospective caretaker to provide documentation to establish his/her relationship to the child. Appropriate documentation includes but is not limited to:
  - Birth certificate:
  - Marriage license;
  - Statements from school, church, neighbors, and/or other sources; and/or
  - Other appropriate legal documents.

Once the prospective caretaker's relationship to the minor child has been established, the Worker must:

- Review the case to determine whether or not the income and/or needs have changed;
- Process the change in household composition;
- Change the caretaker listed in WMS/POS
- Calculate and authorize a new CA and/or FS budget
- Complete the Notice of Intent to Change Benefits: Part A
   (LDSS-4016A NYC) (For CA) and/or the Notice of Intent to
   Change Benefits: Part B (LDSS-4016B NYC) (For FS) and send
  it to the new caretaker.

If the death of an adult caretaker of a minor child(ren) has occurred and the new caretaker is unknown, but the whereabouts of the child(ren) are known, the Worker must contact the New York City Children's Services (also known as ACS) Liaison at the Center or the Administrative Assistant (AA) to the Director if the ACS liaison is not available, to arrange for care of the child(ren).

If the death of an adult caretaker has occurred and the whereabouts of the child are not known, but there was no response to the call-in notice, the Worker must close the case using closing code **M-25**.

If an individual who was listed as deceased on an SSN validation report visits the Center to dispute the findings of a match, the Worker must:

investigate the case to confirm that the correct SSN was listed;

- take the appropriate steps to re-open the case and restore any benefits that were interrupted;
- instruct the applicant/participant to visit his/her local SSA office and request that his/her records be updated/corrected; and
- instruct the applicant/participant to return to the Center with an SSA-5028 receipt, a letter from SSA confirming that an error was made, or with an updated/corrected SSN.

#### **Closed Cases**

If a case on either the **WINRO203** or **WINRO597** is closed at the time of the review, scan and index a copy of the special ALERT (**M-31b**) into the closed electronic case file. If the individual reapplies for assistance, the discrepancy must then be resolved. In addition, if a fraudulent situation is identified, the Worker must refer the case to BFI.

#### **Failure to Comply**

Failure of an applicant/participant to comply (FTC) in furnishing, applying for, or validating an SSN will result in denial of assistance to the noncompliant individual. For CA only, this includes situations where the individual refuses to apply based on religious belief and when a parent fails to provide or apply for an SSN for a child resulting in both the parent his/her child being denied assistance. The needs of the denied individual(s) will not be considered in determining eligibility or degree of need for the remaining household members.

To deny CA to individuals who fail to furnish, apply for, or validate an SSN, the Worker must use one of the following codes:

CA codes for failure to provide or apply for SSN

Case Closing/Rejection Code (Element 222)

**F20** Failure to Provide SSN (HH=1)

Individual Sanction Codes (Element **331**)

F20 Failure to Provide SSN

**E21** Failure to Provide Child's SSN (Parent's Line)

CA codes for failure to validate SSN

Case Rejection (HH=1) or Closing Code (Element 222)

**F17** Failure to Validate SSN (HH=1)

Individual Sanction Code (Element 331)
F17 Failure to Validate Incorrect SSN

If a non-applying household member whose needs and income are considered in determining the amount of assistance granted to the household fails to furnish or apply for an SSN, the entire household is ineligible for assistance. The Worker must close the case using WMS closing code **V20** (failure to provide verification).

**Note:** Undocumented aliens are unable to obtain an SSN due to SSA regulations and therefore are not required to apply for and/or provide an SSN.

Missing SSN

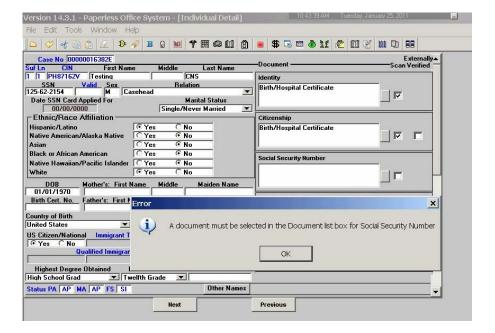
ACI code is found in Element **382** of the TAD

Currently, there are no WMS reports that track cases where participants are missing an SSN. It is the Worker's responsibility to ensure that this issue is appropriately addressed at recertification and at any point of contact in between. If the participant's SSN Validation Code is **2** (SSN Applied For But Not Yet Available) or **4** (SSN Not Applied For), or if the participant is a citizen or a noncitizen with an Alien/Citizen indicator (ACI) code other than "B" (certain Battered Aliens) or "O" (Permanently Residing Under Color of Law [PRUCOL]) who has an SSN Indicator Code **3** (Applied for and Denied), use **Attachment A** for required action.

New

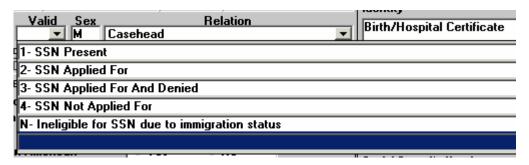
If an applicant/participant fails to verify his/her SSN with documentation (i.e. Social Security Card), an error message that reads "A document must be selected in the Document list box for Social Security Number" will appear on the POS **Individual Detail** screen.

Individual detail screen



Applicants/participants who need a new, replacement, or corrected SSN must be instructed to contact their local SSA to apply for one. The JOS/Worker must advise the applicant/participant to return to the Center with Form **SSA-5028** to confirm that he/she has applied for a new, replacement, or corrected SSN. If the applicant/participant has applied for an SSN the Worker must select option 2 (SSN Applied for) from the **Social Security validation** menu in POS.

Social Security Validation menu



The JOS/Worker must contact the applicant/participant if he/she does not furnish a Social Security Card within 60 days. Anticipated Future Action (AFA) code **327** (Follow-up on Application for SSN) should be used to monitor the case.

#### **Noncitizen SSN Process**

Instructions for participants who are noncitizens with ACI code "B" or "O" and SSN Indicator Code N

If the participant is a noncitizen who:

- has a "B" or "O" ACI indicator,
- has N as an SSN indicator, and
- is in receipt of SNA,

See <u>PD #07-32-ELI</u> for further information on SSNs for Noncitizens.

The JOS/Worker must then review the case to determine if there has been a change in his/her noncitizen status. If there has been a change such as obtaining an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or an immigration status that is satisfactory to the SSA, or if he/she has become eligible for a federal benefit, all of the above would make the noncitizen eligible for an SSN.

**Note**: SSN indicator code **N** is assigned to noncitizens who are denied an SSN solely because of immigration status. At the time of their original SSN application, these noncitizens were not eligible for federal benefits nor did they possess an EAD.

If the noncitizen indicates that there are no changes in these areas (neither acceptable immigration status has been obtained nor employment authorization has been granted and he/she is not eligible for a federal benefit), **do not refer** him/her to SSA to reapply for an SSN. In this situation, a case entry explaining that there has been no change in immigration situation is all that is required. The SSN Validation Code will remain **N**.

In instances where the noncitizen indicates that he/she has obtained employment authorization or a satisfactory immigration status has been granted or is now eligible for a federal benefit, ensure that the appropriate documents required to support the participant's statement are scanned into the electronic file and inquire whether the noncitizen has obtained an SSN since obtaining employment authorization and/or a satisfactory immigration status.

If the noncitizen has not yet applied for an SSN:

- prepare the appropriate Social Security Number Referral Letter and give it to the noncitizen with instructions to reapply for an SSN;
- advise the noncitizen to bring to the SSA any documents that will verify that he/she has been granted immigration status and/or that, employment authorization has been issued; and
- prepare and give the noncitizen <u>W-113K</u> at the Job Centers and NCA FS Centers with a 10-day due date for the submission of verification that he/she applied for an SSN.

When verification of having applied for an SSN is submitted, on the POS or paper TAD change the SSN indicator in Element **321** from **N** to **2**.

In addition, for CA purposes, if the noncitizen has obtained an immigration status that is recognized by the SSA, reevaluate the noncitizen's category of assistance based on the new immigration status. If the new immigration status makes the noncitizen eligible for FA and/or FS, process the changes necessary to change the category of assistance and/or activate the individual's FS benefits.

#### SSN Submitted

At Job Centers and NCA FS Centers, when an applicant/ participant who did not have an SSN, obtains and provides an SSN, follow the instructions in the POS implications to enter the SSN number and change the validation code.

#### Failure to comply with SSN process

If the noncitizen fails to comply with the SSN reapplication process, he/she will be ineligible for CA and FS.

#### Monitoring and tracking required actions

After the case review has been completed and all required actions taken, Workers must complete, scan, index, and image the Social Security Validation Report Worksheet (**M-31d**).

The Job Center Director/NCA FS Center Manager is responsible for tracking and monitoring the disposition of all cases that appear on the reports, using the Social Security Validation Report as of \_\_\_\_\_form (M-31f).

## PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

Paperless Office System (POS) Implications POS will retrieve the Social Security validation code from WMS. If the code is not valid and action to correct it is not taken or action taken is not indicated by selecting an appropriate document in the "Document" field for SSN in the "Individual Detail" window, POS will display a message indicating the validation code and instructions for the Worker to follow. To update the SSN or the validation code, the Worker must:

- Go to the Individual Detail window in the Change Case Activity and make changes to the corresponding fields. The changes made in that window will appear on the POS TAD. The Worker must indicate all changes made in the Individual Detail window or note that the individual has been referred to the Social Security office to update his/her information by using the Validation drop-down box and entering a comment.
- Scan all documents relevant to verifying and/or obtaining an SSN in the electronic case file.

**Note:** If the case is closed at the time of the review and is subsequently reopened, POS will retrieve the Social Security validation code from WMS at that time and display a message when the Worker is in the **Individual Detail** window indicating the validation code and what the Worker is expected to do as a result of that code.

To enter a case comment, press "ALT" and "M" simultaneously on the keyboard.

 Enter a case comment for all actions performed on a case by clicking on the case comments icon or pressing <ALT M> on the keyboard and entering the comments.  Scan all non-POS-generated forms and notices that are signed by the individual into the electronic case file, except domestic violence – related documents.

#### Food Stamp Implications

All individuals applying for or participating in the FS program must apply for an SSN or furnish one. Applicants without an SSN must apply for one before certification.

No adverse action can be taken between FS certifications unless the information is considered verifiable upon receipt.

If the Agency determines that a household member has failed or refused, without good cause, to <u>provide or apply</u> for an SSN at **application or recertification**, only the individual without an SSN is disqualified. In situations where the parent/caretaker of a minor fails or refuses to provide or apply for an SSN for the child, only the **minor child is disqualified**. In these instances, use the following codes:

FS codes for failure to provide or apply for SSN

Case Rejection or Closing Code (Element 231)
F21 Refusal to Apply/Provide SSN (H/H=1)
Individual Rejection and Removal Code (Element 351)
F21 Failure to Provide SSN During Recertification
Interview

Individual Sanction Code (Element 351)

**F20** Failure to Provide SSN During Certification Period (Timely)

**Example:** In instances where the SSA indicates that an SSN is invalid and the invalid number matches the information on our files, if a participant fails without good cause to provide a valid SSN as part of a CA eligibility review call-in and follow-up, the participant would be sanctioned on the CA case using code **F17** and on the FS case using code **F20**.

Case Closing Code (Element 231)

E32 Enilyre to verify SSN (Reportification Clo

F22 Failure to verify SSN (Recertification Closing) (HH=1)

See <u>FSSB</u> Sec. 5, page 94 regarding religious belief.

Unlike CA, NCA FS household members who refuse to provide or apply for an SSN because of a valid religious belief are not disqualified from participating in the FS program. They must be included in the FS household if otherwise eligible.

The refusal to provide or apply for an SSN because of a valid religious belief must be clearly documented. This documentation may include obtaining written or verbal confirmation from the individual's religious organization that the provision of an SSN by its member is in conflict with its religious doctrine.

See FSSB Sec. 5, pg. 98

If a FS household member refuses to cooperate in resolving an SSN validation discrepancy, determine if another household member is able and willing to resolve the discrepancy. If no one in the household is able to resolve the discrepancy, the entire FS case must be denied and a timely notice of the action taken must be issued. To deny FS benefits in these instances, use one of the following codes:

#### FS Case Closing Code (Element 231)

**F17** Failure to validate incorrect social security number (HH=1) **N18** Failure to validate incorrect social security number

#### Medicaid Implications

Any applicant/participant who does not have a valid SSN or intentionally provides the Agency with a fraudulent SSN will have his/her individual medical assistance discontinued.

The following individuals are not required to provide an SSN to receive medical assistance:

- Pregnant women through the end of the month in which the sixtieth (60th) day after the end of the pregnancy occurs
- An undocumented immigrant or temporary non-immigrant applying for Medicaid coverage of care and services necessary for the treatment of an emergency medical condition
- Children up to age one who are born to a mother in receipt of Medicaid

## FAIR HEARING IMPLICATIONS

Avoidance/ Resolution Ensure that all case actions are processed in accordance with current procedures and that electronic case files are kept up to date. Remember that applicants/participants must receive either adequate or timely and adequate notification of all actions taken on their case.

Applicants whose request for assistance is denied and participants whose benefits are reduced or discontinued are entitled to request a Fair Hearing. Remember to give individuals an opportunity for a conference/resolution on the issue(s).

## Conferences at Job Centers

An applicant/participant can request and receive a conference with a Fair Hearing and Conference (FH&C) AJOS I/Supervisor I at any time. If an applicant/participant comes to the Job Center requesting a conference, the Receptionist must alert the FH&C Unit that the individual is waiting to be seen.

In Model Offices, the Receptionist at Main Reception will issue an FH&C ticket to the applicant/participant to route him/her to the FH&C Unit and does not need to verbally alert the FH&C Unit staff.

The FH&C AJOS I/Supervisor I will listen to and evaluate any material presented by the applicant/participant, review the case file and discuss the issue(s) with the JOS/Worker responsible for the case and/or the JOS/Worker's Supervisor. The AJOS I/Supervisor I will explain the reason for the Agency's action(s) to the applicant/participant.

If the determination is that the applicant/participant has presented good cause for the infraction or that the outstanding Notice of Intent needs to be withdrawn for other reasons, the FH&C AJOS I/Supervisor I will settle in conference (SIC), enter detailed case notes in NYCWAY and forward all verifying documentation submitted by the applicant/participant to the appropriate JOS/Worker for corrective action to be taken.

In addition, if the adverse case action still shows on the "Pending" (08) screen in WMS, the AJOS I/Supervisor I must prepare and submit a Fair Hearing/Case Update Data Entry Form (LDSS-3722), change the 02 to an 01 if the case has been granted aid continuing (ATC), or prepare and submit a PA Recoupment Data Entry Form (LDSS-3573) to delete a recoupment. The AJOS I/Supervisor I must complete a Conference Report (M-186a).

If the determination is that the applicant/participant has not shown good cause for the infraction or that the Agency's action(s) should stand, the AJOS I/Supervisor I will explain to the applicant/participant why he/she cannot settle the issue(s) in conference (SIC). The AJOS I/Supervisor I must complete an **M-186a**.

Should the applicant/participant elect to continue his/her appeal by requesting or proceeding to a Fair Hearing already requested, the FH&C AJOS I/Supervisor I is responsible for ensuring that further appeal is properly controlled and that appropriate follow-up action is taken in all phases of the Fair Hearing process.

Conferences at NCA FS Centers

If an applicant/participant comes to the NCA FS Center and requests a conference, the Receptionist must alert the Site Manager's designee that the applicant/participant is to be seen. If the applicant contacts the Eligibility Specialist directly, the Eligibility Specialist must advise the applicant/participant to call the Site Manager's designee.

The Site Manager's designee will listen to and evaluate the applicant/participant's complaint regarding the case closing. The applicant/participant must provide current verification of address to resolve the issue. After reviewing the documentation and case record and discussing the issue with the Group Supervisor/Eligibility specialist, the Site Manager's designee will make a decision. The Site Manager's designee will decide to resolve or defend the case based on all factors and on whether the case was closed correctly.

The Site Manager's designee is responsible for ensuring that further appeal by the applicant/participant through a Fair Hearing request is properly controlled and that appropriate follow-up action is taken in all phases of the Fair Hearing process.

Evidence Packets for the Job Center

All Evidence Packets must contain a detailed History Sheet, copies of relevant WMS screen printouts, other documentation relevant to the action taken and copies of NYCWAY "Case Notes" screens.

Evidence Packets for the NCA FS Center

All Evidence Packets must include the returned envelope, address verification, notices sent and any other pertinent information to support the Agency's action.

LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING ABILITY (LESA) AND HEARING-IMPAIRED IMPLICATIONS For Limited English-Speaking Ability (LESA) and hearing-impaired participants, make sure to obtain appropriate interpreter services in accordance with PD #10-12-OPE and PD #08-20-OPE.

#### REFERENCES

02 INF 29 07 ADM 01 93 ADM 4

18 NYCRR 351.2(c)

18 NYCRR 352.30 (d)(1)(i)

18 NYCRR 360-2.3(a), 369.2, 370.2, 387.16(c) Food Stamp Source Book (FSSB), Pages 94 and 98

#### RELATED ITEMS

PD #07-32-ELI PD #07-03-OPE

ATTACHMENTS	Attachment A	SSN Validation Codes and Required Actions
	Attachment B	RFI Status/Resolution Codes
Please use Print on	WINRO203	Social Security Validation Report
Demand to obtain copies	WINRO597	(WPTY) Wired Third Party Inquiry
of forms.	M-31b	ALERT Social Security Number Discrepancy on
		Closed/Rejected Case/Individual
	M-31d	Social Security Validation Report Worksheet
		(Rev. 2/16/11)
	M-31f	Social Security Validation Report as of
		(Rev. 2/16/11)
	M-50b	Guide to Social Security Offices in New York City
		(Rev. 2/16/11)
	W-205K	Social Security Validation Failure Review Guide
		(Rev. 2/16/11)
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#### Attachment A

#### **SSN VALIDATION CODES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS**

TAD ELEMENT 321/ WMS INDIVIDUAL INQUIRY SCREEN (NQIN2A)

CODE	ACTION
1 - SSN present but not yet validated	NO ACTION NECESSARY
2 - SSN applied for but not yet available	If SSN has been received, annotate <b>TAD</b> . Remember to change the SSN validation code (element <b>321</b> in <b>TAD</b> ) "2" to "1". If SSN has not been received and the SSN application is more than three (3) months old, refer applicant to SSA to reapply for an SSN. Verification of compliance is required. For FS purposes, a household has until their next recertification to reapply for a SSN not yet available.
3 - SSN applied for and denied	Obtain the SSA letter from the participant that indicates the reason for denial. If the reason can be resolved, have the participant resolve the issue and reapply for an SSN. *If the reason cannot be resolved, re-evaluate the individual's eligibility for CA, MA and/or FS.  Note: For noncitizens, if the SSN has been denied because of alien status enter code N in Element 321 of the TAD for these individuals and thereafter follow the instructions listed on the next page for code N.
4 - SSN not applied for	Refer the applicant/participant to SSA to apply for a SSN. Once verification of application is submitted, submit <b>TAD</b> to change the validation code from "4" to "2" in element <b>321</b> .
**5 - SSN indicator not on ODP data base (Conversion Code)	NO ACTION NECESSARY
**7 - SSN assigned by SSA	NO ACTION NECESSARY
**8 - SSN validated by SSA	NO ACTION NECESSARY
**9 - Invalid SSN for closed cases  **A - SSN not in SSA file	If the SSN on the photocopy of the Social Security card in the case record is the same as the SSN listed as invalid on the Social Security Validation Report (WINR0203), make a referral to BFI using BFI referral form <b>BFI-14</b> (Attachment B). When a referral to BFI is made, do not tell the applicant/participant about the referral.
**B - No match on name in SSA file	Review documentation submitted to verify identity. If discrepancy is due to agency error, prepare a <b>TAD</b> to correct name. Ensure that code "1" is entered in element <b>321</b> of the <b>TAD</b> as part of the corrective action. If information is WMS is correct, refer applicant/participant to the SSA to apply for a corrected SSN.  Note: In instances where a female participant is receiving assistance under her married name but her SSN is under her maiden name, she must be given the choice of changing the case name to match the name on the SSN or requesting a name change on her Social Security card.

#### **SSN VALIDATION CODES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS**

#### TAD ELEMENT 321/ WMS INDIVIDUAL INQUIRY SCREEN (NQIN2A)

CODE	ACTION
**C - DOB given-name match (Difference in maiden and married names)  **D - No match on DOB  **E - Client known to SSA by this # – xxx-xx-xxxx (number sent to SSA is wrong due to a transposition or one-digit-off error) Note: See RFI for the correct number.	Review documentation submitted to verify Date of Birth (DOB) and gender. If Agency error, prepare <b>TAD</b> to correct information in WMS. In addition to revised information, enter code "1" in element <b>321</b> . If the information in WMS is correct, refer the applicant/participant to the SSA ( <b>LDSS-2474</b> ) to have the information in his/her record corrected.
N -State Benefit Eligible Alien (for SNA-eligible noncitizens).	Ask the participant if there has been any change in his/her immigration status. If there has been NO CHANGE, NO FURTHER ACTION IS NECESSARY AT THIS TIME.  If a change that now makes the participant eligible for an SSN has occurred, refer him/her to SSA to apply for SSN and enter code "2" in element 321 of the TAD.
**X- Deceased	This code is system-generated. When code <b>X</b> appears on an individual line, take necessary action to close the individual's line or the case for a single-person household. If the deceased individual is the caretaker of a minor child, instructions outlined in PD #01-17 must be followed.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Output codes only

### **RFI STATUS/RESOLUTION CODES**

#### RFI STATUS CODES\* - Applicable to SSN Validation

U - Unresolved RFI Data	Prevents activation of AC status (permits "SI" but not "AC").  When a case is in "SI" status and there is a code of "U," the  Worker must still try to resolve the RFI hit regardless of whether  s/he is going to close the case.
V - SSN verified by SSA	SSN is valid.
R - RFI hit is resolved	Once the issue is resolved and a resolution code is entered, the status will change to "R."
W - Unresolved RFI hit	<ul> <li>(Problem with SSN) Occurs when an individual is in AP status and prevents activation of AC or SI status.</li> <li>SSN not on SSA file.</li> <li>SSN belongs to deceased person.</li> <li>SSN one digit off. SSA will send correct number. Do Application Maintenance to correct the SSN and wait for new clearance.</li> </ul>

# **RFI RESOLUTION CODES\*** - Applicable to SSN Validation. These codes can be dataentered on the bottom of the RFI Screens.

P01 - Client's SSA record needs	Use for WTPY when applicant/participant is sent to the SSA
to be corrected	office. (Can Accept)
<b>P02 -</b> Demographics changes on WMS	Change demographics information in WMS and change Social
	Security Validation Code to 1.
P03 - Application/Individual rejected	Failed to respond to request to verify RFI data. (Cannot Accept)
P04 - Application/Individual rejected	Ineligible due to RFI data. (Cannot Accept).
P05 - RFI does not affect eligibility	Currently correct. To be used if the case is acceptable and the Worker's review of the Social Security, UIB and WRS data finds no effect on the household's eligibility or benefit level. (Can Accept)
P06 - RFI individual not the same as client	Review the case to see if information supplied is a match. If the individual name does not match the client's name on the Social Security card, the SSA file must be updated. Refer the client to an SSA office to apply for a new SS card.
P07 - Case is eligible	Made active at a reduced grant due to RFI. This code is used when the income (WRS, UIB, and Social Security) was revealed first by RFI and the income has been confirmed and budgeted. (Can Accept)
P08 - Referred to BFI	Based on a response from BFI and other available information, the Worker must either accept or reject the case and enter the appropriate resolution code on the screen.
<b>P90</b> - Override RFI information	The designated Supervisor with an authorized TTSS password will use this code to accept cases in emergency situations. (Can be used on WTPY screen only)

<sup>\*</sup>For the full list of RFI Status/Resolutions codes, refer to the Worker's Guide to Codes.

PAGE 1 ************************************	* FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY ************************************		
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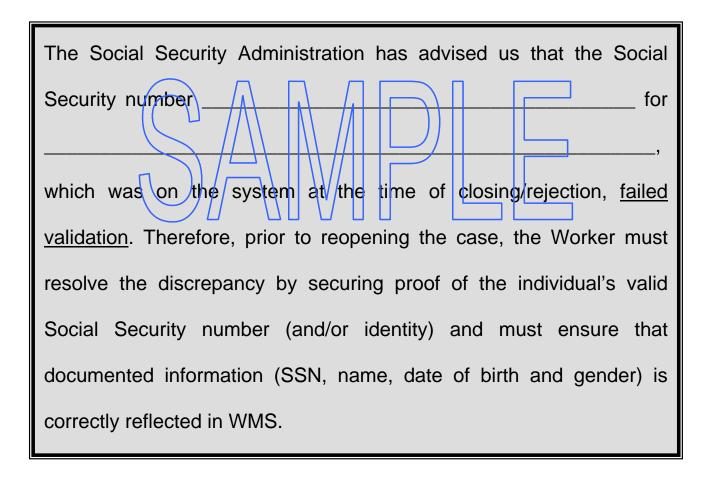
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# **ALERT**

# Social Security Number Discrepancy on Closed/Rejected Case/Individual



Form M-31d (page 1) Rev. 2/16/11



## Social Security Validation Report Worksheet See page 3 for instructions on how to prepare this form

1-4.		_						
	Center Number	er Case Number/Suffix	Caseload		Case	Name		
5.	☐ WINRO20	3 Run Date:	☐ WINRO597	Run Date:		6. Action Co	de:	
7.	Check ☑ Error	Message:						
	1. Social Sec	curity number not on SSA file						
		match, DOB and sex code not						
		tches, DOB matches, no sex r						
		tches, sex matches, no DOB r						
		tches, DOB and sex do not ma	_					
-		ecord reviewed?	•	neck ☑ reason b	elow:			
	A. Case record not available B. Case at Job Center number:							
		CTIVE at NCA/FS Center:			MA Office:			
		ents from the WINRO203/WIN		•	ecked	onto line A.		
	Enter the corresponding elements as documented in the case record on line B.							
		(( )) //\	/   /	111 71				
	Line	SSN	Last Name		First Name	M.I	. Sex	DOB
	WINRO203/ WINRO597	$\sim$ $\sim$	\   \\ //					
В.	Case Record	$\Box$	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1					
			<del>\\  \\/</del>		+			
10.	Whose informa	tion (based on documentation	in case record) is	correct?				
	$\Box$ CA $\Box$	FS 🗆 SSA 🗀 Insufficie	ent documentation	in case record.				
11.	Check ☑ the re	eason for the error message:						
A.	SSN enter	ed incorrectly		в. 🗆	Fraudulent SS	N provided		
C.	☐ Incorrect la	ast name		D. 🗆	Name misspell	led		
E.	☐ Name reve	ersed – first name entered as l	ast name	F. 🗆	Name on wron	g line		
G.	☐ Child listed	l as male, female, or unborn		н. 🗆	Middle initial or	mitted or inc	orrect	
ı.	☐ Individual r	narried but name not changed		J. 🗆	Incorrect inform	nation show	n on app	lication
K.	☐ Incorrect in	formation entered on system	– DOB/Sex	L. 🗆	Incorrect inform	nation on SS	SA's date	e file
М.	☐ Incorrect b	•		N. 🗆	Birthdate show	n is for anot	her indiv	ridual
0		lain:						
	•	tion seen to support findings:						

Note: Documentation verifying identity must clearly state the individual's name (e.g. birth certificate). The only acceptable document to verify SSN is a Social Security card.

#### **Action Taken:**

13.	Was corrective action taken? ☐ Yes ☐ No If No, check ☑ the appropriate action to be taken.
a.	Case active at Job Center No.: – forward to Job Center.
b.	☐ MA individual – forward to MAP.
c.	□ NCA individual – forward to FS program.
d.	Case/individual closed – complete and insert ALERT letter (Form M-31b) in case record.
e.	☐ Demographics/SSN previously corrected, no action required.
14.	Information in WMS is correct. Participant referred to SSA for (Check ☑ appropriate action code[s]): <b>A.</b> ☐ Last name change <b>B.</b> ☐ First name change <b>C.</b> ☐ M.I. change/add <b>D.</b> ☐ DOB change
15.	POS or manual LDSS-3517 (TAD) prepared for the following. Check ☑ appropriate action code:  A. ☐ SSN change/add B. ☐ Last name change/add C. ☐ First name change D. ☐ M.I. change/add  E. ☐ DOB change F. ☐ Other:
16	Action taken to close case/remove individual:
	Potential fraud? Yes No If yes, refer case record and this worksheet to BFI.
18.	Is the individual over 18 years of age? Ves No If Yes, follow-up action is required to request WRS/UIB clearance
19.	once the new SSN is data-entered successfully.  Comments/follow-up (il applicable):
20	Reviewer's Name:
21.	Supervisor's Name: Telephone: Date:

#### Instructions for Preparing Social Security Validation Report Worksheet

- 1-4. Enter Center number, Case number, Caseload and Case Name.
- **5.** Enter WINRO203/WINRO597 report run date.
- 6. Enter action code (from item 13, 14 or 15).
- 7. Check ☑ error message as it appears on WINRO203/WINRO597.
- 8. If the case record was reviewed, check  $\ensuremath{\square}$  yes.
- **9.** On line A enter the elements from the WINRO203/WINRO597 report related to the message. On line B enter the corresponding information based on the documentation in case record.
- 10. Based upon your review of the documentation in the case record, indicate whose demographic information is correct:
  - Check ☑ CA, FS or SSA
  - If the case record does not have the appropriate documents, check 
     ☐ "Insufficient Documentation" and go to item
     19. If the case is active, call the participant in. If the case is closed, go to item 13, check ☐ item 13D, prepare and
     insert ALERT letter (Form M-31b) in case record, and complete item 19.
- 11. Based on your review of the documentation in the case record, check ☑ reason for the error message indicated on the WINRO203/WINRO597 report (refer to Social Security Validation Failure Guide).
- 12. Specify documentation reviewed to determine basis of error
- 13. If corrective action was taken, check ☑ yes, and complete tern 14 and/or 15 If corrective action cannot be taken, check ☑ No and reason.
- 14. If participant is referred to SSA to update his/her records,/creck 🗵 reason for dehial.
- 15. If POS or manual TAD is prepared to correct information on our database, check 

  the reason(s) for TAD preparation.
- 16. Take the necessary actions to close case of remove individual, if the individual fails to report or call in.
- 17. Potential fraud check 

  yes if case record reveals photocopy of invalid Social Security card. Forward case record and Worksheet to BFI.
- **18.** If the individual is over 18 years of age and his/her SSN was changed or added successfully, check ☑ yes. Follow-up action is required to request/review WRS/UIB Clearance. If the individual is under 18 years of age, check ☑ no.
- 19. Enter any other relevant information.
- 20. Enter reviewer's name, telephone number and the date in the space provided.
- 21. Enter the supervisor's name, telephone number and the date in the space provided.

Remember to enter the appropriate ACTION CODE in item 6.

Social Security Validation Report as of _	
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Center:	•	-	
Run Date:			

		Number of	DISPOSITION/ACTION TAKEN CODES									No. of Now		
Group	Total Number Received for Review	Household Members with Messages Other Than	Case ATO'D Item 13A	MA Only Case Item 13B	NCA Case Item 13C	Case/ Indiv. Closed Item 13D	Demo/SSN Already Corrected Item 13E	Referred to SSA Item 14	DSS-3517 Prepared to Change Database Item 15	Case Closed/ Indiv. Rem. Item 16	Number of Potential Fraud Referred to BFI Item 17	Total Reviewed	Total Outstanding	No. of New WRS/UIB Clearances Requested for Indiv. over 18 Where SSN Changed on Database
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				П										
TOTAL														

#### **Disposition/Action Taken Codes**

Item 13A - Case active at another Center - forward to Center.

Item 13B - MA individual - forward to MAP.

Item 13C - NCA/FS individual - forward to FS program.

Item 13D - Case/Individual closed - complete and insert alert letter in case record.

Item 13E - Demographics/SSN already corrected.

Item 14 - Referred to SSA to update file.

Item 15 - DSS-3517 (TAD) prepared to update our system.

Item 16 - DSS-3517 (TAD) prepared to close case remove individual.

Item 17 - Potential fraud. Refer case record and worksheet to BFI.



## **Guide to Social Security Offices in New York City**

Bronx	Brooklyn*	Manhattan	Queens*/ Staten Island
Bronx Hub 2770 Third Avenue Bronx, NY 10455	Avenue X 10 Bouck Court Brooklyn, NY 11223-5937	Chinatown 32 Mercer Street, Eighth Floor New York, NY 10013	Astoria 28-18 Steinway Street, Fourth Floor Astoria, NY 11103
East Bronx 1380 Parker Street Bronx, NY 10461	Bedford Heights 1540 Fulton Street Brooklyn, NY 11216	Downtown 26 Federal Plaza Room 31-120 New York, NY 10278	Far Rockaway 617 Beach 20th Street Far Rockaway, NY 11691
Hunts Point 1029 East 163rd Street Third Floor Bronx, NY 10459	Boro Hall 195 Montague Street Third Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201	East Harlem 345 East 102nd Street Fourth Floor New York, NY 10029	Glendale 6710 Myrtle Avenue Glendale, NY 11385
Laconia Avenue 3247 Laconia Avenue Bronx, NY 10469	Bushwick 1111 Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11206	East Village 650 East 12th Street New York, NY 10009	Hyland Boulevard 1510 Hyland Boulevard Second Floor Staten Island, NY 10305
North Bronx 2720 Jerome Avenue Bronx, NY 10468	Canarsie 1871 Rockaway Parkway Brooklyn, NY 11236-5037	Grand Central/United Nations 755 Second Avenue Third Floor New York, NY 10017	Jamaica 1 Jamaica Center Plaza Third Floor Jamaica, NY 11432-3820
South Bronx 226 East 161st Street Second Floor Bronx, NY 10451	Cypress Hills 3386 Fulton Street Brooklyn, NY 11208	Mictowr 237 West 48th Street Fifth Floor New York, NY 10036	Long Island City 42-15 Crescent Street Long Island City, NY 11101
West Farms 1829 Southern Boulevard Bronx, NY 10460	East New York 27 Pennsylvania Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11207	Uptown 55 West 125th Street Fifth Floor New York, NY 10027	Rego Park 63-44 Austin Street Rego Park, NY 11374
	Flatbush 2250 Nostrand Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11210	Washington Heights 4292 Broadway New York, NY 10033	Social Security Card Center* 155-10 Jamaica Avenue Queens, NY 11432
	Social Security Card Center* 10 Metrotech Center 625 Fulton Street Sixth Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201		Staten Island Richmond Avenue 2389 Richmond Avenue Staten Island, NY 10314
	Williamsburg 93 North 9th Street Brooklyn, NY 11211		

\*Residents of Brooklyn and Queens who need a new or replacement Social Security Card must be sent to the Social Security Card Center as noted in the Brooklyn or Queens column. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Social Security at (800) 772-1213 or TTY (800) 325-0778. Many Social Security services are also available online at <a href="https://www.socialSecurity.gov">www.socialSecurity.gov</a>.

# Social Security Validation Failure Review Guide (To Be Used With The WINRO203 and WINRO597)

	Message	Possible Reasons for Message	Action to be Taken
I. •	Social Security Number (SSN) is not on SSA file  SSA benefits terminated/deceased mm/dd/yy  Validated with date of death (DOD), reported from SSA  Participant known by other SSN	SSN entered incorrectly     Fraudulent SSN given by participant	<ul> <li>(a) Review the case record and compare the SSN listed on the copy of the Social Security Card filed in the case record or scanned in the system against the number entered in WMS.</li> <li>(b) If the SSN entered in WMS is incorrect and the individual is: <ul> <li>Applicant – Have SSN corrected via the application maintenance option.</li> <li>Participant – On the TAD, cross out the Social Security number in Element 322, enter the correct number and circle in red. Forward TAD to control for processing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(c) If the SSN documented in the case record is the same as the one entered in WMS and listed as invalid. If the case is active, prepare a referral to BFI (BFI-14), indicate on the referral that the SSN on DATABASE (WMS) reflects the information in the case record. Forward the referral of case record to BFI.</li> <li>(d) If there is no copy of the Social Security Card in the case record, follow-up action is required. Send letter to participant to report to the Center within 10 days with a copy of his/her Social Security Card. If a CA participant FAILS TO REPORT (NCA FS, see procedure).</li> <li>Single Individual – Close case due to Failure to Report.</li> <li>Individual Living with Others – Remove individual due to Failure to Report.</li> </ul>
II. •	No match name, DOB and Sex code not checked  Name does not match, DOB not checked  DOB, first name match, last name different  Last name different with benefits	<ul> <li>SSN entered incorrectly</li> <li>SSN is for another individual on the case</li> <li>Fraudulent card utilized by participant</li> <li>Incorrect last name utilized, e.g., mother's name instead of father's, payee's name instead of child's</li> <li>Name misspelled</li> <li>Name reversed – first name entered as last name</li> <li>Name on wrong line</li> <li>Child listed as male, female, or unborn</li> <li>Middle initial omitted or incorrect</li> <li>Participant married but name not changed</li> </ul>	Follow the instructions listed in Section I "Action to be Taken"  (a) Review birth/marriage certificate (where applicable) and Social Security Card and compare with name, DOB and sex listed on database. If other documents were used specify on worksheet.  (b) When the SSA and CA/NCA FS file names do not match and participant acknowledges use of both names, inform him/her that the same name must be used in both programs. The participant has the right to choose which name he/she wants to be known by as long as it is supported by a primary source of identification such as a birth certificate, marriage license, etc. When the participant decides which name to use, bring the files into agreement by submitting a TAD to correct information on database, or refer the participant to SSA, whichever is required.  (c) If the individual/case is closed/rejected, complete and scan/file ALERT letter (Form M-31b) in case record.  (d) If documentation in case record indicated information on our database is correct, refer the participant to the SSA to request a correction or update of the information in their files and if the correction involves a change of name, he/she must also request a new Social Security Card. Verification of this action must be submitted to the Center.  (e) Where there is no birth/marriage certificate in the case record and the case is active, ask the participant to submit his/her birth certificate. Follow-up action is required.

	Message	Possible Reasons for Message	Action to be Taken				
III.	Name Matches, DOB Matches, No Match Sex	<ul> <li>Incorrect information shown on application</li> <li>Incorrect information entered on system</li> <li>Incorrect information on Social Security Administration's data file</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(a) A birth certificate/marriage certificate (where applicable) must be seen in order to resolve name, DOB and sex discrepancy.</li> <li>(b) Documentation identifying the participant must clearly document his/her name, date of birth, sex and parent's name.</li> <li>(c) Review documents indicating person's sex.</li> <li>(d) If the incorrect sex was entered in WMS and individual is active, correct sex on TAD. If individual/case is closed, complete and scan/file ALERT letter (Form M-31b) in case record.</li> <li>(e) If documentation in case record indicated information on our database is correct, refer the participant to the SSA to request a correction or update of the information in their files and if the correction involves a change of name, he/she must also request a new Social Security Card. Verification of this action must be submitted to the Center.</li> <li>(f) Where there is no birth/marriage certificate in the case record and the case is active, ask the participant to submit his/her birth certificate. Follow-up action is required.</li> </ul>				
IV.	No match name, DOB and Sex code not checked	Incorrect birthdate entered on system     Birthdate shown is for another individual	(a) A birth certificate/marriage certificate (where applicable) must be seen in order to resolve name, DOB and sex discrepancy.  (b) Documentation dentifying the participant must clearly document his/her name, date of birth, sex and parent's name.  (c) Review documents showing date of birth.  (d) If the incorrect DOB was entered in WMS and the individual is active, correct DOB on TAD. If the individual/case is closed, complete and scan/file ALERT letter (Form M-31b) in case record.  (e) If documentation in case record indicated information on our database is correct, refer the participant to the SSA to request a correction or update of the information in their files and if the correction involves a change of name, he/she must also request a new Social Security Card. Verification of this action must be submitted to the Center.  (f) Where there is no birth/marriage certificate in the case record and the case is active, ask the participant to submit his/her birth certificate. Follow-up action is required.				
V.	Name Matches, DOB and Sex Do Not Match	Incorrect information on application     Incorrect information on system	<ul> <li>(a) A birth certificate/marriage certificate (where applicable) must be seen in order to resolve name, DOB and sex discrepancy.</li> <li>(b) Documentation identifying the participant must clearly document his/her name, date of birth, sex and parent's name.</li> <li>(c) Review documents showing sex and DOB.</li> <li>(d) If correct sex and DOB were entered in WMS and the individual/case is active, correct sex and DOB on TAD. If the individual/case is closed, complete and scan/file ALERT letter (Form M-31b) in case record.</li> <li>(e) If documentation in case record indicated information on our database is correct, refer the participant to the SSA to request a correction or update of the information in their files and if the correction involves a change of name, he/she must also request a new Social Security Card. Verification of this action must be submitted to the Center.</li> <li>(f) Where there is no birth/marriage certificate in the case record and the case is active, ask participant to submit his/her birth certificate. Follow-up action is required.</li> <li>ew RFI clearance is generated. Review and resolve discrepancies.</li> </ul>				