

# ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY GENERAL RELIEF REGULATIONS MANUAL

## SECTION 40: RESIDENCE

EFFECTIVE: February 2022

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### .1 CITIZENSHIP AND NON-CITIZEN STATUS

Verification of United States citizenship is required when there is reason to believe citizenship is questionable, such as when the individual was born outside the United States or when information conflicts with statements from the client.

Non-citizens who provide acceptable documentation that permanent legal residency in the United States has been granted, are eligible to receive GR.

Non-citizens who hold INS documentation verifying they have been granted an indefinite stay from deportation, are eligible to receive GR.

Non-citizen victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes qualifying for Federal and/or State aid may be eligible to receive GR benefits.

Persons with student visas, tourist visas or other evidence of temporary admission do not qualify for GR.

GR will not be issued pending verification of permanent legal resident status. Undocumented non-citizens are not eligible to receive GR.

Foreign visitors who are stranded here may be referred to the closest consulate of their country. See Section 80.4.b.

### .2 COUNTY RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible to receive GR a person must have been a resident of Orange County for a minimum of fifteen (15) consecutive calendar days immediately prior to the GR application. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that an individual have an address or to require a homeless person to acquire an address. A person's residence is the place where he or she lives. The burden of establishing Orange County residency rests on the applicant.

Persons who come to or are brought into Orange County directly to shelter care facilities, rescue missions, private charitable organizations, etc., for the purpose of participating in job training or a drug-alcohol recovery program, shall not be considered residents of Orange County for GR purposes.

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## SECTION 40: RESIDENCE

EFFECTIVE: January 2026

### .2 **COUNTY RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)**

Residence, once established, cannot be lost except by a combination of action and intent, unless information from a reliable source is received indicating that the person has been outside of Orange County for **15** days or more. The person who declares plans to leave the area retains residence until actual time of departure. Aid is denied/discontinued immediately upon the individual's departure from Orange County.

The person may return and re-establish residence at any time by residing in Orange County for fifteen (15) consecutive calendar days.

Persons who received GR from another jurisdiction in the month in which they apply in Orange County are not eligible to receive GR from Orange County in the same month.

### .3 **GENERAL RESIDENCE INFORMATION**

No applicant for GR may be denied assistance solely on the basis that he lacks an address, is living in campgrounds or other similar temporary accommodations, or is sleeping in a vehicle.

Clients must keep the Agency advised of their whereabouts. An EU with an address who moves to another address or becomes homeless shall inform the Agency of their whereabouts within ten (10) calendar days. An EU without an address who moves to another location or locates housing shall inform the Agency of their whereabouts within ten (10) calendar days.

Applicants and recipients who have no permanent address, including homeless individuals, may use a Post Office Box or any other designated address for purposes of SSA's mailing of notices and other materials. The mailing address may be the address of a relative, friend, shelter, or any other organization that allows the individual to receive mail. Applicants and recipients have the option to use a SSA Regional office P.O. Box as their mailing address for county correspondence.

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### 3 **GENERAL RESIDENCE INFORMATION (cont'd)**

Persons who do not provide the Agency with a residence address, choose to use a designated address for purposes of SSA's mailing of notices and other materials or a SSA Regional office P.O. Box retain the responsibility of retrieving any correspondence the Agency may initiate. Such persons must come to the SSA Regional office where their case is held or other designated location on a regular basis and request their mail. The Agency shall advise clients of this responsibility. Documents shall be dated by the Agency on the date they are prepared as if they were to be placed in the mail. Dates shall not be altered to reflect the date the item was retrieved by the client.

### .4 **VERIFICATION**

Verification of residence in Orange County is required. Individuals should be asked to provide appropriate documentation such as rent receipts, including motel or hotel receipts, copies of utility bills, driver's license or other identification cards as proof of residence in Orange County. Inquiries to collateral contacts may be made with the client's written authorization. When objective verification is not available, the client's sworn statement on the GR Statement of Facts is acceptable verification unless other objective evidence substantiates that the client is not an Orange County resident.

### .5 **REPATRIATION**

For action on requests for repatriation received from the State of California Department of Social Services (CDSS), see CDSS Manual, Chapter 68-100.

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