

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
UNIFORM POLICY MANUAL**

Date:	Transmittal:	8080
Section: Special Programs	Type:	POLICY
Chapter: State-Administered General Assistance	Program:	<u>SAGA</u> [SCA] [SMA]
Subject: Introduction		

8080 [A. Overview]

The State-Administered General Assistance Program (SAGA) provides cash assistance [(SCA)] to needy individuals who cannot work because of short-term or long-term medical impairments and certain other non-medical reasons. Except for policies concerning the rights and responsibilities of assistance units and the department, which are described in section 8080.10 of the UPM, all policies governing SAGA are described in sections 17b-198-1 to 17b-198-19, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. [, and to needy families who do not meet certain categorical requirements for other Department programs. Individuals and families can also receive SAGA medical assistance (SMA) if they have insufficient income and assets to meet their basic essential needs and do not meet categorical requirements for the Medicaid program.

B. General Principles

This chapter describes the Department's policy and procedures for the implementation of the SAGA Program. Except for the provisions in this chapter, the eligibility requirements of SCA and SMA are identical to the AFDC Program.]

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Subject: Rights and Responsibilities		

8080.10 A. General Provisions

In the SAGA program, the assistance unit has the right to apply for assistance from the Department. The unit has other rights, such as the right to be treated without discrimination by the Department. Additional departmental policies concerning the rights and responsibilities of applicants and recipients of the SAGA program are described in section 1000.

An assistance unit also has certain responsibilities, such as supplying information the Department needs to determine the unit's eligibility, reporting changes in circumstances, and meeting certain procedural requirements.

The Department also has certain responsibilities in its relationship with the assistance unit. The Department is responsible for determining the unit's eligibility objectively and in a timely manner, and, as part of this determination, may conduct a Fraud Early Detection investigation whenever circumstances indicating an error prone case, as described in section 1505.40 of the UPM, pertain to a particular application [. It must] The Department shall base its decision on state law and regulations and afford applicants and recipients all fair hearing rights that apply in the AFDC program, as described in sections 1570.05, 1570.15, 1570.25 and 1570.30.

B. Disclosure of Information

The Department is authorized to disclose confidential information provided said disclosure is directly connected to the administration of the Department's programs, pursuant to C.G.S. 17b-90.

The Department's policies and procedures regarding the safeguarding of information are also the same as in the AFDC program (Cross Reference: 1020).

C. Release of Information to Law Enforcement Officials

The Department is authorized to disclose the current address of an applicant or recipient of SAGA benefits upon the request of a federal, state or local law enforcement officer if the following conditions are met:

1. The officer provides the Department with the name of the individual; and
2. The officer notifies the Department that:
 - a. the individual is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, for a crime, or an attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony or high misdemeanor under the laws of the place from which the individual flees; or
 - b. the individual is violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law as a result of the commission of such a felony or high misdemeanor; or
 - c. the individual has information necessary for such officer to conduct official duties in relation to a crime committed, or an attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony or high misdemeanor in the state in which the crime is committed or attempted; and
3. The location or apprehension of the individual is within the official duties of such officer.