

Facts Sheet – Wish Granting



CATEGORY: *Required Forms*

SUBJECT: **The Impact of a Wish on Public Assistance and/or Benefits**

DATE: September 14, 2006	DATE VALID: Replaces FACT Sheet dated May 16, 2006	
MAW CONTACT:	Kristin Keck Sr. Manager, Mission Resources	E-MAIL: kkeck@wish.org PHONE: (602) 279-9474, x5220

On page 4 of the Make-A-Wish Foundation Family Packet, the following statement appears in the required signatures box: “***...that the receipt of a wish may impact the eligibility for public assistance and/or benefits.***”

If a family inquires about this statement, please provide them with the following information so they may discuss any concerns with the agency providing public assistance.

The “Noncitizen Benefit Clarification and other Technical Amendments Act of 1998,” contains an amendment to 42 USC 1382b(s) benefiting families of wish children receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. The bill contains a technical correction to calculating a family’s eligibility for SSI benefits. ***The bill exempts cash up to \$2,000 and any in-kind (i.e. non-cash gift) in any amount, but only if the non-cash gift is not converted to cash.*** For example, expense money under \$2,000 incidental to a travel wish would be exempt from impacting a family’s SSI benefits. The same applies for gift wishes such as computers, swing sets, etc., as long as the gift is not converted to cash.

Official language in bill 42 U.S.C.A. § 1382b

In determining the resources of an individual (and his eligible spouse, if any) there shall be excluded --

(13) *any gift to, or for the benefit of, an individual who has not attained 18 years of age and who has a life-threatening condition, from an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code --*

(A) *in the case of an in-kind gift, if the gift is not converted to cash; or*

(B) *in the case of a cash gift, only to the extent that the total amount excluded from the resources of the individual pursuant to this paragraph in the calendar year in which the gift is made does not exceed \$2,000;*

Chapters should be aware that wishes involving the transfer of cash or certain material items to a wish child and his or her family may impact other public assistance benefit, including but not limited to, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medicaid, and other forms of federal assistance.

In the case of Medicaid, while wish items do not appear to impact benefits, rules prohibit transferring the health care benefits to other states. Medicaid benefits are accepted only in the state in which they are issued; this is important information to consider when families travel out of state.

Please direct any questions to Kristin Keck, senior manager, mission resources, at kkeck@wish.org.