

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAID AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Statutory Authority: 31 Delaware Code, Section 512 (31 **Del.C.** §512)
16 **DE Admin. Code** 20330

PROPOSED

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Savings Bonds

In compliance with the State's Administrative Procedures Act (APA - Title 29, Chapter 101 of the **Delaware Code**) and under the authority of 31 **Del.C.** §512, Delaware Health and Social Services ("Department") / Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DHSS/DMMA) is proposing to amend the Division of Social Services Manual (DSSM) 20330.7 regarding US Savings Bonds, specifically, to clarify policy and procedures.

Any person who wishes to make written suggestions, compilations of data, testimony, briefs, or other written materials concerning the proposed new regulations must submit same to, Planning and Policy Unit, Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance, 1901 North DuPont Highway, P.O. Box 906, New Castle, Delaware 19720-0906, by email to DHSS_DMMA_Publiccomment@Delaware.gov, or by fax to 302-255-4413 by 4:30 p.m. on May 31, 2023. Please identify in the subject line: US Savings Bonds.

The action concerning the determination of whether to adopt the proposed regulation will be based upon the results of Department and Division staff analysis and the consideration of the comments and written materials filed by other interested persons.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS)/Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) is proposing to amend the Division of Social Services Manual (DSSM) 20330.7 regarding US Savings Bonds, specifically, to clarify policy and procedures.

Statutory Authority

- 31 CFR 352

Background

The Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) would like to update the contact information including name, address, phone number, and website for US Savings Bonds. In Addition, H and HH Bonds are no longer being issued. The 6-month retention period for all remaining H and HH Bonds no longer applies.

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Summary of Proposed Changes

Effective for services provided on and after May 1, 2023, Delaware Health and Social Services/Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DHSS/DMMA) proposes to amend the Delaware Social Services Manual (DSSM) to clarify internal policy and procedures regarding US Savings Bonds.

Public Notice

In accordance with the *federal* public notice requirements established at Section 1902(a)(13)(A) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 440.386 and the *state* public notice requirements of Title 29, Chapter 101 of the **Delaware Code**, DHSS/DMMA gives public notice and provides an open comment period for 30 days to allow all stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on the proposed regulation. Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on May 31, 2023.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Review and Approval

The provisions of this state plan amendment (SPA) are subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The draft SPA page(s) may undergo further revisions before and after submittal to CMS based upon public comment and/or CMS feedback. The final version may be subject to significant change.

Provider Manuals and Communications Update

Also, there may be additional provider manuals that may require updates as a result of these changes. The applicable Delaware Medical Assistance Program (DMAP) Provider Policy Specific Manuals and/or Delaware Medical Assistance Portal will be updated. Manual updates, revised pages or additions to the provider manual are issued, as required, for new policy, policy clarification, and/or revisions to the DMAP program. Provider billing guidelines or instructions to incorporate any new requirement may also be issued. A newsletter system is utilized to distribute new or revised manual material and to provide any other pertinent information regarding DMAP updates. DMAP updates are available on the Delaware Medical Assistance Portal website: <https://medicaid.dhss.delaware.gov/provider>

Fiscal Impact

There is no anticipated fiscal impact.

20000 Medicaid Long Term Care

20330 Countable Resources Computation

20330.7 U.S. Savings Bonds

U.S. Savings Bonds are obligations of the Federal Government. They are not transferable and can only be sold back to the Federal Government. Normally, they cannot be redeemed for six months after the issue date specified on the face of the bond. For Series EE, and I Savings Bonds, the redemption period has been extended to 12 months. They become resources (not income) as of the 7th or 13th month. A bond may not roll over or renew in order to prolong the minimum retention period. Actual redemption (converting to cash) of one bond is required before purchasing a new bond. However, the U.S. Treasury regulation authorizes the Commission of Public Debt to waive the regulatory provisions pertaining to U.S. Savings bonds including the redemption period in order to "relieve any person or persons of unnecessary hardship". A request for a refund because the person now requires Nursing Home care and so needs the funds used to purchase the bonds may constitute hardship. A written request to the Commissioner of Public Debt requesting a waiver to the redemption period is all that is required. The bondholder may simultaneously tender the bond(s) for redemption. If the Treasury receives the bond(s) and grants the waiver, it will issue the individual a check. Since bonds are redeemable due to hardship, the redemption value is treated as an available resource.

The individual in whose name a U.S. Savings Bond is registered owns it. The Social Security Number shown on a bond is not proof of ownership. The co-owners of a bond (bond titled AND/OR) own equal (50%) shares of the redemption value of the bond. The bond may show an owner followed by POD (proof of death) and another name. This is a survivorship type of bond. The name of the first individual owns 100% of the bond. The second individual will own 100% of the bond upon the death of the first individual.

Physical possession of a U.S. Savings Bond is a requirement for redeeming it. This is true for sole or joint ownership. If an individual alleges that he or she cannot submit a bond because a co-owner or other individual will not relinquish physical possession of the bond, obtain a signed statement from the co-owner or the other individual that he or she: has physical possession of the bond; will not allow the applicant to cash the bond; and if co-owner, will not cash the bond and give the applicant his or her share.

The Table of Redemption Values for U.S. Savings Bonds is used to determine the value of a bond. These are available from a local bank. The bank will need the series, denomination, date of purchase or issue date. ~~After the mandatory 6-month retention period, the~~ The value of a series H or HH bond is its face value.

~~Office of Public Debt
Buffalo Branch, FRB of NY
Fiscal Services Division
P.O. Box 964
Buffalo, NY 14240-0964
www.publicdebt.reas.gov~~

Treasury Retail Securities Services

P.O. Box 9150

Minneapolis, MN 55480-9150

(844) 284-2676

www.treasurydirect.gov/savings-bonds/cashing-a-bond/affected-by-a-disaster

See 20330.7 U.S. Savings Bonds - History

8 DE Reg. 1313 (03/01/05)

10 DE Reg. 1601 (04/01/07)

26 DE Reg. 926 (05/01/23) (Prop.)