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**State of Wisconsin
Governor Jim Doyle**

**TO: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators**

**FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens, Section Chief
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BEPS/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No: 10-39 (Amended)					
DATE: 07/07/2010					
FS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BC+ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SC <input type="checkbox"/>	CTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FSET <input type="checkbox"/>
		BC+ CORE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
CC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W-2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CF <input type="checkbox"/>	JAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JC <input type="checkbox"/>
RAP <input type="checkbox"/>	WIA <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/> *			
EP					

SUBJECT: Birth Certificates for Puerto Rican Individuals

CROSS REFERENCE: [MEH](#) Chapter 7; [BC+ Handbook](#) Chapter 4; [FoodShare Handbook](#) 1.2; [Child Care Manual](#) Chapter 1.7; [W-2 Manual](#) Chapter 2.2.1

EFFECTIVE DATE: **OCTOBER 1, 2010**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to inform local agencies of a change that could affect people born in Puerto Rico who apply for Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus (BC+), FoodShare (FS), Wisconsin Works (W-2) or Wisconsin Shares (Child Care) on or after October 1, 2010.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2009, the government of Puerto Rico enacted a new law intended to address the fraudulent use of Puerto Rico-issued birth certificates to unlawfully obtain U.S. passports, Social Security benefits, and other federal services.

Effective October 1, 2010, the law will invalidate all certified copies of birth certificates issued by the Puerto Rico Health Department before July 1, 2010. Birth Certificates issued prior to that date will no longer be acceptable as verification of US citizenship (for Medicaid or BC+ purposes), or identification (for FS, W-2 or Child Care) for applications filed on or after **October 1, 2010.** (The Puerto Rican government has extended the validity of Puerto Rican birth

certificates issued prior to July 1, 2010 for three months to allow those Puerto Rico-born individuals a three month window to apply for and receive the new document during which time their current birth certificate will be valid.)

POLICY

Until October 1, 2010, all birth certificates issued prior to July 1, 2010 by the Puerto Rico Health Department remain valid. Applicants with Medicaid, BC+, FS, W-2 or Child Care application filing dates prior to **October 1, 2010** will not be affected by the new law.

Individuals who are ongoing recipients of Medicaid, BC+, FS, W-2 or Child Care in **September, 2010** and who used a birth certificate issued by the Puerto Rico Health Department prior to July 1, 2010 as verification of their citizenship or identity need not provide additional verification. Do not require additional verification of citizenship or identity from such individuals now, or at review.

On July 1, 2010, the Puerto Rico Health Department began issuing new birth certificates. Persons applying for Medicaid, BC+, FS, W-2 or Child Care on or after October 1, 2010 who wish to use a birth certificate as verification of their citizenship/identity, must present one issued on or after July 1, 2010.

Effective October 1, 2010, do not accept as valid any certified copy of a birth certificate presented for any purpose if it was issued by the Puerto Rico Health Department prior to July 1, 2010. Continue to follow the citizenship and identity policy for applicants who need assistance obtaining the necessary citizenship verification for benefit determination.

If the applicant has not applied for a new birth certificate, the form and more information on this new law can be found at the following link: <http://www.prfaa.com/birthcertificates>.

CARES:

There are no CARES/CWW changes associated with this update.

CONTACTS:

BEPS CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center
W-2 Policy Related Questions: BWF Regional Office Staff
W-2 CARES Processing Questions: W-2/CC Help Desk

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, BC+ Core – BadgerCare Plus Core, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.