



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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BULLETIN NO. 10
MA-03-01

TO: ALL COUNTY, DISTRICT AND AREA OFFICES

FROM: VIRGINIA T. LODGE, COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: RESIDENCY POLICY FOR MEDICAID/TENNCARE

The TennCare Reform Act of 2002 requires that DHS add language to the DHS Application for Assistance (HS-0169) regarding an individual's residency. The law now requires an applicant to declare 'under penalty of perjury' that the adult applicant does not own or lease a 'principal residence' outside of this state.

The definition of a 'principal residence' has not changed. For purposes of Medicaid and TennCare eligibility, the principal residence is defined as the current residence at which the individual intends to reside permanently, or for an indefinite period. An individual may then own or lease a residence in another state, but if it is not their principal residence as defined above, then they qualify as a Tennessee resident.

During the interview, if a determination is made that an individual is not a Tennessee resident and therefore not eligible, this must be thoroughly documented in running record. This is particularly important if they own or lease a principal residence in another state.

Please see the attached information from the Bureau of TennCare, Office of General Counsel, regarding the principal residence policy and procedure.

Please direct questions or concerns to the Medicaid/TennCare Policy Unit through the usual channels.

VTL:MAR:bb