

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)
Eligibility Policy and Procedures Guide

Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE)

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Effective Date:

9/1/2020

Background:

The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 mandates that the immigration status of each non-citizen applicant/recipient must be verified with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as a condition of eligibility for CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Purpose:

This section is being revised to include directions for third level Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) verification.

Policy:

IRCA requires the use of an automated system to verify Satisfactory Immigration Status (SIS) provided by an immigrant applicant/recipient. SIS clarifies the immigration status that entitles an otherwise eligible immigrant to CalWORKs, CalFresh and/or Medi-Cal.

USCIS has designated the SAVE system to verify each non-citizen's immigration status. The SAVE system is an information sharing system consisting of a primary and secondary verification system. SAVE transactions will not occur in (CAPI) or General Relief (GR) cases as there is no federal funding involved. CAPI and GR cases because these programs are not federally funded.

Procedures:

Primary SAVE Verification

The primary SAVE system is used to verify the immigration status of non-citizens with an alien (A) number. If the primary verification response does not state that the non-citizen is in SIS, the secondary verification is mandated.

The SAVE abstract should indicate one of the five following responses from USCIS:

- Legal Permanent Resident – Employment authorized
- Cuban/Haitian Entrant – Temporary employment authorized
- Section 245A Temporary Resident – Temporary employment authorized
- Section 210 Temporary Resident – Temporary employment authorized
- Institute Secondary Verification

The first four SAVE responses indicate SIS. The third and fourth responses identify the individual as an IRCA immigrant. IRCA immigrants may receive full-scope benefits if they are under 18 years of age, or are aged, blind or disabled.

SAVE Verification for Refugees:

Refugees usually apply for assistance soon after they enter the United States; it is unlikely that their immigration status will be on the SAVE system database yet. Therefore, most primary requests for refugees will indicate "Institute Secondary Verification."

A federal waiver was granted to allow a delay in the processing of secondary SAVE verification for refugees who are applying for CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), CalFresh and

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Medi-Cal benefits for 12 months unless their refugee documentation is questionable or appears fraudulent. For those refugees where SAVE secondary verification was indicated but was not submitted at the time of application:

- Set up a reminder to institute a primary SAVE process in 12 months.
- Resubmit the "A" number through CalWIN no more than 12 months from the month of certification.
- Institute a secondary verification if the primary SAVE response indicates to do so.

County Medical Services (CMS) does not have access to the primary automated system, therefore the SAVE Secondary Verification is used.

Secondary SAVE Verification

The secondary verification system is an e-SAVE system for verifying an alien registration number and non-citizen information. A SAVE secondary verification is required under the following circumstances:

- The SAVE primary response is "Institute Secondary Verification".
- The USCIS documentation does not contain an "A" number.
- There are discrepancies between the primary response and the USCIS documentation presented by the customer.
- The A-number is in the 60000000 or 70000000 series which, according to USCIS, have not been issued.
- The A-number is in the 80000000 series, which is used for unlawful border crossings.
- The document is a USCIS receipt.
- The alien presents a foreign passport containing an I-181 or I-94 form, which is over one year old with the statement "Processed for I-551, Temporary Evidence of Lawful Permanent Residence".
- The individual presents an I-688 or I-689 with an A-number in the 90000000 series. These documents pertain to amnesty applicants and require special handling.
- The original USCIS documentation appears to be altered or counterfeited.
- The individual is a sponsored non-citizen in a CAPI and GR case.

Third Level SAVE Verification

When immigration status is not verified in the second level verification response from SAVE, the following message will be displayed in the EMPLOYMENT-ELIGIBILITY-MESSAGE" field on the SAVE response file, "Institute Third Level Verification". Designated staff will use the SAVE website to complete the third level verification for these individuals.

Procedures:

PRUCOL determination: CAPI Desk Aid 99-101.2C, EOPG: SAVE

Program Impacts:

CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CAPI and GR

References:

- All County Letters (ACLs) No: 06-60, 17-73
- CFPG 63-157 Sponsored Noncitizens; Processing Guide 117-01; Processing Guide 157-01.

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- Medi-Cal: Revised MPG Sections 7.3.2 & 7.3.3.
- County Medical Services (CMS): Updated CMSPG 05.04.04 Alien Status Verification
- CAPI: Revise CAPI PG Sections 99-101.2 & 99-101.3
- General Relief: Revised GRPG Sections 90-100.9, 90-200.3, & 90-200.4.

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 08/31/2023.

Approval for Release:

Rick Wanne, Director
Eligibility Operations