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**For Immediate Release**

## **Richardson Administration Files Rules to Extend Medicaid Recertification Period for Family and Children's Medicaid Clients**

Extension aimed at giving Family and Children's Medicaid clients more time to get citizenship documentation required by the federal government.

*Santa Fe, June 19, 2006* – Human Services Department Secretary Pamela Hyde today announced the department has filed a rule change that will extend recertification for family or children's Medicaid clients by six months in an effort to help thousands of New Mexicans get the proper documents now required by the federal government to prove citizenship. "This change is designed to give New Mexicans every chance to keep the coverage they need to stay healthy. Some Medicaid clients will likely have a difficult time finding the right documents that prove they are U.S. citizens or legal residents. We hope the six-month extension will help families get the right documents and have no problem recertifying when it is their time to renew," said Hyde.

The rules announced today will allow the family and children's Medicaid categories currently under six-month recertification rules an additional six-month grace period before recertification is required. For example, family and children's Medicaid clients due for a six-month recertification in July now have until January 2007 to renew. Beginning in July, all Medicaid categories will recertify every 12 months.

"Family or children's Medicaid clients due to renew in July have been sent notices, informing them their cases have been extended an additional six months," said Katie Falls, Human Services Department Deputy Secretary. However, it is important to note that all other Medicaid categories already on a 12-month recertification schedule, including family planning, full Medicaid for pregnant women and Working Disabled Medicaid clients due to renew in July, must still recertify in July in order to keep their health care benefits.

Beginning July 1, the Deficit Reduction Act requires all Medicaid recipients due for recertification as well as those applying for the first time must provide documents that prove both citizenship and identity.

A U.S. passport will serve as both proof of citizenship and identity. However, for those without a passport, a document proving citizenship that shows a U.S. place of birth or that the person is a U.S. citizen and a separate document proving identity will be required.

Examples of proof of citizenship documents include:

- A original U.S. birth certificate,
- A certification of birth issued by the Department of State,
- A U.S. hospital record of birth made at the time of birth, created at least five years before the initial application date and indicating a U.S. place of birth,
- Institutional admission papers from a nursing home, skilled nursing care facility or other institution, created at least five years before the initial application date and indicating a U.S. place of birth, and
- People born outside the U.S. who were not citizens at birth must submit a document listed under primary evidence of U.S. citizenship.

In rare circumstances, written affidavits may be used when evidence of citizenship is not available. The affidavits must be supplied by at least two individuals, one of whom is not related to the applicant or recipient. Each must attest to having personal knowledge of the event(s) establishing the applicant's or recipient's claim of citizenship

Examples of proof of identity documents include:

- A current state driver's license with a picture,
- A state-issued identity card for a non-driver with a picture,
- A Certificate of Indian Blood or other U.S. American Indian/Alaska Native tribal document, and
- Children who are age 16 or younger may provide one of the following: A school identification card with a photo; a military dependent's identification card with a photo; a school record that shows a date and place of birth and parent(s) name; clinic, doctor or hospital record showing date of birth; or daycare or nursery school record showing date and place of birth.

**Medicaid clients who have questions about the new citizenship document requirements can call the Human Services Department's Medical Assistance Division at 1-888-997-2583 or log on [www.state.nm.us/hsd](http://www.state.nm.us/hsd).**

**To find out how to get a New Mexico birth certificate, please call the Department of Health's Vital Records Bureau at 1-866-534-0051 or log on to their website at <http://dohewbs2.health.state.nm.us/VitalRec/Birth%20Certificates.htm>.**

**To find out how to get a New Mexico driver's license or identity card, please call the Taxation and Revenue's Motor Vehicle Division at 1-888-683-4636 or log on to their website at [http://www.state.nm.us/tax/mvd/mvd\\_home.htm](http://www.state.nm.us/tax/mvd/mvd_home.htm).**

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