

**RESOURCES
PERSONAL PROPERTY**

AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER VEHICLES

Policy: Ownership of one or more automobiles by an SSI-related A/R is reviewed and evaluated.

An automobile of any value is exempt as long as the SSI-A/R or a member of his/her household is using it. An automobile that is temporarily inoperable may be excluded if it is expected to be used for transportation within 12 calendar months after the month of the Medicaid eligibility determination. A second automobile may be exempt if there is a medical need for it, or the automobile is needed for employment-related activities or a Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS). If an automobile does not meet any of the exemption criteria, it loses its exempt status, and the full equity value of the automobile is a countable resource. The equity value of an automobile is the price the car can reasonably be expected to sell for on the open market in a particular geographic area, minus any encumbrances.

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References:	SSL Sect.	366 366.2(a)(2) 366-ee
	Dept. Reg.	360-4.7(a)(2)(iv)
	ADMs	10 OHIP/ADM-01 OMM/ADM 97-2
	INF	98 OMM/INF-02
	GISs	09 MA/027 09 MA/016 05 MA/029

Interpretation: A second automobile is exempt if there is a medical need for it or the automobile is needed for employment-related activities or a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS).

Recreational vehicles such as campers, snowmobiles and boats are not exempt unless the SSI-related A/R can demonstrate that the vehicle is essential for the production of a livelihood or is essential for personal use. An example is a person who lives on an island and needs a boat for such everyday tasks as buying food, going to work, or visiting the doctor.

Verify Status:

- (a) When the SSI-related A/R declares ownership of one or more automobiles or other motor vehicles;
- (b) When the SSI-related A/R lives a substantial distance from his/her place of employment;

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- (c) When the SSI-related A/R declares an occupation or business which requires travel;
- (d) When the SSI-related A/R states that s/he or a member of the household travels regularly for medical care and services;
- (e) When the SSI-related A/R declares ownership of a driver's license.

Verification:

The primary verification for ownership of a motor vehicle is the motor vehicle registration. The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) can also establish whether or not the A/R owns or has owned an automobile and furnish information on the vehicle. Information available usually includes the purchase price, encumbrances against the vehicle, and the name of the organization financing the purchase. DMV can also establish non-ownership of a vehicle.

The "Blue Book" of car values is an additional source to establish the market value of motor vehicles. Other sources include car dealers who can provide an approximate value based on the make, year, and model of the vehicle.

Documentation:

Sufficient to establish an audit trail:

- (a) The make, model, year, and identification number of motor vehicles owned by the SSI-related A/R are documented in the case record; and/or
- (b) If exempted, the reasons are also recorded in the case record.