
NONFINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FACTORS

MARITAL & PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

**C. HOLDING -OUT
RELATIONSHIPS**

A man and a woman who live in the same household are married for SSI/Medicaid purposes if they hold themselves out as husband and wife to the community in which they live.

If a couple lives together but denies "holding out," obtain as many of the following items of evidence as possible to make a determination of the couple's status:

- mortgages, leases, property deeds, bank accounts, insurance policies, passports, tax returns, credit cards;
- information from other government programs, such as SSA, Food Stamps, public housing, etc.
- statements from relatives, friends or neighbors.

It is possible for a couple to live together and not be "holding out" as man/wife depending on their circumstances (economic/social), but the only way to make a determination of marital status is to examine how the couple holds themselves out to the community. If the couple is determined to be living apart, each is treated as an individual. If evidence does not substantiate that a couple lives apart, then couple rules and deeming applies.

Note: A man and woman who are still legally married and resume living together after having lived apart are a married couple, regardless of the reason for having resumed living together. If a divorced couple resume living together, develop whether they are "holding out."