

# MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID

## Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual

### 302.06 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Personal property, discussed in this section, includes automobiles, life insurance, household goods and personal effects and burial funds.

#### 302.06.01 AUTOMOBILES

An automobile is any registered or unregistered vehicle used for transportation. Vehicles used for transportation can be motorized, animal drawn or even an animal. A vehicle not used for transportation is not an automobile, but may be a countable resource. A temporarily inoperable vehicle normally used for transportation meets the definition of an automobile.

If an exclusion cannot be developed for a vehicle, verify the current market value. The CMV is the average price an automobile of that particular year, make and model and condition would sell for on the open market (to a private individual) in the particular geographic area involved. Use the most recent NADA Official Car Guide or Older Car Guide to determine the average trade-in value. If there is debt on the vehicle, determine the equity value.

If the client states the CMV is not representative of the value of the vehicle, he must be given the opportunity to provide a value rebuttal from another knowledgeable source, such as a used car/truck dealer, automobile insurance company, classic car appraiser, etc.

#### Examples of Automobiles

- Car or truck
- Boat
- Motorcycle
- All terrain vehicle
- Horse-drawn carriage
- Horse

The following are not vehicles for purposes of this exclusion:

- Permanently inoperable (junk) vehicle
- Vehicle used exclusively for recreation, such as boats, motorcycles, RVs, dirt bikes, golf carts, etc.

Leased vehicles are not considered in the resource determination, as the individual does not own the vehicle.

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### **Automobiles (Continued)**

#### Procedure

##### **Treatment of Vehicles Under SSI Resource Policy**

Effective April 2005, one automobile may be excluded, regardless of value, if is used for transportation of the individual, spouse and/or a household member. Unless there is evidence to the contrary, assume the vehicle is used for transportation.

##### **If multiple vehicles are involved:**

- Apply the exclusion in a way that is most advantageous to the applicant/recipient. That is, apply the exclusion to the vehicle with the greater equity value.
- For any vehicle that cannot be excluded wholly under this provision or another provision (e.g., property essential to self-support, etc.), the equity value is countable toward the resource limit.

The equity value of junk cars and vehicles used only for recreation is a resource. The personal effects exclusion does not apply to such vehicles.

##### **Treatment of Vehicles Under Liberalized Resource Policy**

Two vehicles may be excluded, regardless of value, if used for transportation of the individual, spouse and/or a household member. Unless there is evidence to the contrary, assume the vehicles are used for transportation.

##### **If multiple vehicles are involved:**

- Apply the exclusions in a way that is most advantageous to the applicant or recipient. That is, apply the exclusions to the vehicles with the greater equity value.
- For any vehicle that cannot be excluded wholly under this provision or another provision (e.g., property essential to self-support, etc.), the equity value is countable toward the resource limit.

Any car that is permanently inoperable (junk car) can be totally excluded as a resource. Recreational vehicles are treated as personal property. The personal effects exclusion does not apply to such vehicles.

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**Automobiles** (Continued)

AUTOMOBILE CHART	
SSI POLICY	LIBERALIZED POLICY
Exclude one vehicle regardless of value that is used for transportation	Exclude two vehicles regardless of value that are used for transportation
<b>Additional Vehicles</b> - count the equity value of other vehicles which do not meet a resource exclusion	<b>Additional Vehicles</b> - count the equity value of other vehicles which do not meet a resource exclusion