

# Privacy Rights



## Accessing Services and Immigration Enforcement

Do I qualify for a benefit or public program?



If I use the program will it affect my immigration status or options?



Even if I'm not worried about changing my status, will the information be used to deport me?

## Message for Consumers

- Many laws protect the information you provide to benefits agencies.
- You can apply for benefits that you or your family members are eligible for, and get the services you need.
- You do not need to provide information about your own status or Social Security Number if you are not seeking benefits for yourself.
- Do not provide fraudulent information!



## Many Laws Protect Your Information

Federal, state, and county laws and policies generally prohibit benefits agencies from:

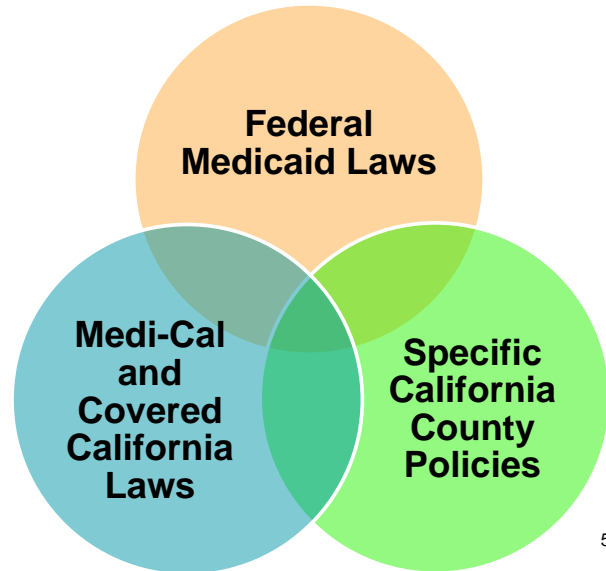
- **Asking about or collecting** certain sensitive information
- **Using or sharing** your information for purposes other than deciding whether you or a family member are eligible for a program, or for administering the program.

You will need to provide information about your income, but there are many ways to do this.

## Laws also protect the information you give to health care agencies

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Some laws impose fines or criminal liability!



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## CalFresh and CalWORKs

- CalFresh and CalWORKs agencies may collect only the information necessary to determine eligibility.
- Immigrants seeking CalFresh/CalWORKs for themselves will have their immigration status verified by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”). This information is used to determine eligibility for the benefits, and **cannot be used for civil immigration enforcement purposes.**
- People seeking benefits only for family members, like a U.S. citizen child, **do not need to provide information about their status,** and will not have their status verified.

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## SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements)

USCIS process used to verify eligibility for several major benefit programs.

This information is used only to verify eligibility for benefits.  
It **CANNOT** be used for civil immigration enforcement purposes.

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## CalFresh and CalWORKs - Examples

Samia has had her green card for 5 years, and is eligible for CalFresh. As proof of her immigration status, she showed her green card to the CalFresh officer when she applied.

The CalFresh office will use SAVE to verify that Samia is a lawful permanent resident. This will be used to confirm her eligibility for the benefit.

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## CalFresh and CalWORKs - Examples

Rafael is undocumented and wants to apply for CalFresh for his U.S. citizen child.

The CalFresh office will not use SAVE or contact USCIS because Rafael's child was born in the US, and Rafael is not applying for benefits for himself. There is no immigration status for an agency to verify!

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## Non-Applicants

- All programs distinguish between **applicant** and **non-applicant** household members.
  - Rafael is an example of a non-applicant: an undocumented parent applying to get a benefit for a child, but not for himself.
- Non-applicants are **never** required to provide information about their immigration status on a benefits application.
- Non-applicants also do not have to provide a **Social Security Number** on applications for benefits (with one exception!):
  - In Covered California – individuals who file taxes for the household, seek premium assistance, and *have a valid SSN*, must provide it.

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## Respect for Benefits Applicants

California law requires eligibility workers to be **polite and respectful**, to help people get all the benefits for which they are eligible, and to **refrain from asking unnecessary questions**.

Q: What has been your experience? Have eligibility workers been polite and respectful?

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# Thank You!

