

ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 2 – Administration of the Los Angeles County Code to eliminate the use of fingerprinting as an eligibility requirement for general relief, increase the personal property limits and the limit of cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts for individuals applying for general relief, and exempt motor vehicles that are used as residences to determine eligibility for general relief.

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MC:dt

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ORDINANCE NO. _____

This ordinance amends Title 2 – Administration of the Los Angeles County Code to eliminate the use of fingerprinting as an eligibility requirement for general relief, increase the personal property limits and the limit of cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts for individuals applying for general relief, exempt motor vehicles that are used as residences to determine eligibility for general relief, and amend provisions related to the sanctioning process previously applied to general relief applicants and recipients.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2.102.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.102.050 General Relief – Written Declaration by Applicant.

A. At the time of application for general relief and at other times as deemed necessary by the Department, but not less than once annually, each applicant or recipient shall sign a written declaration under penalty of perjury stating such person's social security account number or numbers; the nature, source, and amount of all income, whether cash, in-kind benefits or other resources, which such person receives or is to receive; the nature, location, and value of all real and personal property in which such person has any interest; the names, addresses, and incomes of all responsible relatives of such person as defined in Section 2.102.130 of this chapter: and such other information as the Department may require to determine eligibility or continued eligibility. Any person who fails or refuses to sign any declaration as required under this

chapter, and who is otherwise eligible for general relief shall not receive or be eligible for general relief until such person signs such declaration.

B. To establish or verify the identity of an applicant or recipient, the ~~d~~Department ~~may~~will require that an applicant or recipient ~~be fingerprinted and photographed~~provide photo identification as a condition of receiving aid. If an applicant or recipient is unable to provide photo identification, the Department will make reasonable efforts to assist such applicant or recipient to obtain photo identification. An applicant, who is in the process of obtaining photo identification, may receive aid for up to 60 days.

C. ~~Any person who fails or refuses to sign any declaration or to submit to being fingerprinted and photographed, as required under this chapter, and who is otherwise eligible for general relief shall not receive or be eligible for general relief until such person signs such declaration and submits to being fingerprinted and photographed.~~Whenever it is determined that any declaration required under this chapter contains false statements, the Department shall report all of the circumstances to the proper legal officer.

D. ~~Whenever it is determined that any declaration required under this chapter contains false statements, the department shall report all of the circumstances to the proper legal officer.~~

SECTION 2. Section 2.102.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**2.102.080 General rRelief – Eligibility – Personal pProperty
lLimitations.**

A. Except as otherwise provided in this sSection, no person shall be eligible for general relief who possesses or owns any interest in personal property, regardless of the type or description, the total value of which exceeds ~~\$500~~2,000.00. Except as otherwise provided, the term "value," as used in this sSection, means the current market value without regard to the amount of any encumbrances.

B. No applicant shall be eligible for general relief if, at the time of application, such applicant possesses or owns cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts the total value of which exceeds ~~\$50~~100.00, and no applicant who resides with one or more members of such applicant's family where any such other member is an applicant, shall be eligible for general relief if, at the time of application, such applicant and one or more such other members who are applicants possess or own cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts, the total value of which exceeds ~~\$4~~200.00.

C. No recipient shall remain eligible for general relief if such recipient owns cash, negotiable instruments or bank accounts the total value of which exceeds the sum of such recipient's monthly general relief basic budget plus \$1,500.00, and no recipient who resides with one or more members of such recipient's family, where any such other member is a recipient, shall remain eligible for general relief if such recipient and one or more such other members who are recipients possess or own cash, negotiable

instruments or bank accounts, the total value of which exceeds the sum of the monthly general relief basic budgets of such recipient and such members plus \$1,500.00.

D. If an applicant or recipient has no means to pay for burial expenses other than a life insurance policy or policies, then the total cash surrender value of such insurance policy or policies, up to a maximum of \$500.00, shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.

E. No person shall be eligible for general relief if such person or, where applicable, any member of such person's family residing with such person where such member is also an applicant or recipient, and owns any interest in a motor vehicle, ~~provided that~~ ~~†~~ ~~This requirement~~ limitation shall not apply if such person and, where applicable, such member own an interest in only one motor vehicle and such motor vehicle has a retail value of \$4,500.00 or less, or such motor vehicle is used as such person's residence and the retail value of the motor vehicle does not exceed \$11,500.00, and provided further that such value of such one motor vehicle shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.

F. Tools of the trade of an applicant or recipient necessary to obtain or retain employment shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief, provided that such tools are determined by the ~~d~~ Department to be those customarily required for the specific trade of such person.

G. No person shall be eligible for general relief who owns any interest in a mobile home, provided that this requirement shall not apply with respect to an interest in

such property used as such person's residence if the value of such property does not exceed \$15,000.00, and provided further that such value of such property used as such person's residence shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.

H. No person shall be eligible for general relief who owns any interest in a motor home or house trailer, provided that this requirement shall not apply with respect to an interest in such property used as such person's residence if the value of such property does not exceed \$11,500.00, and provided further that such value of such property used as such person's residence shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.

I. Any currently employed person who is on leave of absence due to disability or illness and who has funds in a retirement system may retain such funds in such retirement system, and such funds shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief, provided that such person retains all such funds in such retirement system and that it is medically determined that such person will be capable of returning to work within six months after the date of application for general relief.

J. Household equipment, furnishings and personal effects of an applicant or recipient shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief, provided that such items of property are determined by the ~~d~~Department to be necessary to provide the minimal essential needs of such person, and are within reasonable values established by the ~~d~~Department.

K. The value of an interment space, crypt or niche to be used for the interment of an applicant or recipient, up to a maximum of \$500.00, shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.

L. Relocation benefits for displacement from a dwelling actually owned or rented by an applicant or recipient received from a public entity pursuant to Section 17409 of the Welfare and Institutions Code of the state shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.

M. Earned income tax credits received by an applicant or recipient shall be exempt from consideration in determining eligibility or continued eligibility for general relief.

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