



# Questions from the Field

2015 ID&R Statewide Training  
April 22, 2015





## Question from a Florida Recruiter

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We recently signed up an OSY and her little baby. At the time we signed her up, we thought she was born in 1997, which would have made her eligible to sign her own COE. After completing the COE and verifying information with the MSIX Database, school records indicate that she was born in 1999 and attended school in Texas.

Upon realizing that this young lady was 15 years old, we attempted to go back and visit her to secure a signature from her 18 year old husband or her mother. Unfortunately, this family is now living in North Carolina.

The 2 COEs that we have pending are that of the young lady and her baby (the 15 year old signed both of them).

According to the ID&R manual, the 15 year old can sign her own COE but we have to get the OK from your office.

- ▶ *So, would it be ok to turn in the COEs to your office at this time? Everything else on the COEs look good.*



## *Answer from ID&R Office*

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For the purposes of eligibility and COE completion, the FL MEP...

- ▶ Any 16 year old youth or older can sign his/her own COE.
- ▶ Anyone younger than 16 years old will need someone older than 18 (guardian, relative, supervisor, co-worker) to sign the COE.

In cases where the recruiter cannot secure a signature of someone older than 18 years old, the recruiter shall complete the COE by having the youth sign the COE in Section IV, Item 4, and contacting the ID&R Office.



## *Answer from ID&R Office*

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Since you have already attempted to find the family, it is acceptable to submit the COEs to our office.

Please make sure a comment is included to indicate that the youth was 15 yrs. old at the time of the interview, and that efforts were made to obtain another individual's signature for both COEs.

Also indicate that you had contacted our office to receive an OK for this COE and include the date of the communication.

SECTION II: CHILD DATA																
1. Last Name 1	2. Last Name 2	3. First Name	4. Middle Name	5. Suffix	6. H	7. Race	8. Sex	9. Birth Date MM/DD/YY	10. Age	11. MB	12. Code	13. Birthplace City	13. Birthplace State	13. Birthplace Country	14. School	15. Gr
1.								/ /								
2.								/ /								
3.								/ /								
4.								/ /								
5.								/ /								
16. Child/Family Data Comments (e.g., urgent health conditions, non-eligible children in the household, email address if any):																

## Remember...

- ▶ #15 If the child is an OSY, enter Code 30 for the grade.

*Caution during summer recruiting –*

- ▶ Be sure to ask sufficient questions to determine whether this is an OSY not a youth that is enrolled in high school in another district during the regular SY and on summer break.
  - If it is the latter, enter grade the youth just completed.





## *Question from a Florida Recruiter*

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We have a family in our district whose eligibility expired last year. The family now claims that they made a move in December of 2013 to Georgia to work in pine straw. They did not mention this to the recruiter in Hamilton County until a few months after the supposed move.

I called the mother (re-interview) and she gave me the same information that she gave to our original interviewing recruiter.

The mother provided a written statement from the employer stating that she worked for him in pine straw for two weeks in Moultrie, Ga. I also called the employer to verify and asked him to please fax me the dates that the family in question went to Ga to work for him. He did send me a fax and included the dates the family worked.



## Question (continued)

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So now I have two notes.

- The first one was given to us by the family. This note has the type of qualifying activity the family did for him (pine straw) but did not include the dates that they worked. It also states that the family was paid in cash.
- The second one was faxed to our office by the employer. This note has the dates the family worked (Dec. 25, 2013- Jan. 4, 2014) but does not mention the qualify activity.

While talking to employer on the phone, I did mention to him the importance of the information he was providing.

- ▶ *Do you think the information the employer has provided is enough to back-up the COE or do we need to do something else?*





## *Answer from ID&R Office*

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After reviewing the information you provided, it appears that the family made a move and obtained qualifying work.

Regarding your question regarding documentation, our guidance is that you document when the phone conversation with the employer took place and indicate if he verified over the phone the type of work (in this case, pine straw). Attach these comments to the faxed letter - this will "connect" the information and will also show you did your "due diligence" in corroborating the information.

Make sure there is a comment in the COE indicating that additional credible evidence is on file.

Finally, we would advise the recruiter to include a comment to explain the short duration of the move and why the recruiter is satisfied that such move is a change of residence for the worker and the child.



## *Question from a Florida Recruiter*

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We called a parent who stated they were going to pick oranges as the qualifying activity (COE # XXXXXX). However, the parent is picking strawberries now and does not plan on picking oranges. He is making more money picking strawberries.

- ▶ *What do we write on the COE since he did not obtain work picking oranges?*



## *Answer from ID&R Office*

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When the interview and eligibility determination was made, the worker had all the intentions to pick oranges.

Therefore, the original information on the COE remains correct and should not be changed.

However, since a follow up was done and new information has been brought into light, the recruiter should include a comment indicating when the follow up was done and explaining that the worker decided not to pick oranges and is picking strawberries instead. This information provides the re-interview valuable insight, if a re-interview is ever done for any child in this particular COE.



# Rolling Re-interview Question

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*Question –*

Are we to submit district imposed Quality Control documentation outside of the times requested by the State?

*Answer –*

Yes. Rolling re-interviews should be conducted in an ongoing manner when families are in the area.



## Question from the Field

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I am “jumping the gun” on this form for next year. I noticed that our Qualifying Activity Chart for 9/24/14 only had “picking” as an action. I am new at this.

- ▶ *Can you guide me with where I should be getting this information?*
- ▶ *Is the information coming directly from the COEs that get completed in terms of the crop and action word?*

In reviewing the COEs, I am seeing that we have other action words that could be added.

- ▶ *In regards to the month, would it be the month of the QAD? If not, where can I find this information?*



## *Answer from the ID&R Office*

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The chart is very useful to us as well as to migrant staff in other states to corroborate eligibility information.

You can gather crop and activity information from current COEs, such as tomatoes, planting; however, you should also discuss the chart with your recruiters. They are likely to be up to date on changes to crop patterns. The chart should identify, as best as possible, when specific crop activities occur during the year. The qualifying arrival date (QAD) is not necessarily the most reliable indicator. For instance, families may make early moves before the qualifying activity actually begins.

Let's use the following scenario as an example: Families arrive in late August in order to secure housing and have the children start school. The workers plan to pick oranges and have been told by the crew leader that work will begin the first week in October. Using the QAD in this case would be inaccurate since picking oranges occurs in October not August.





## Question to OME

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A recruiter in Florida identifies an out-of-school youth who does not have a high school diploma or equivalent, and is currently employed in seasonal agricultural work. The young man moved on his own to Florida in search of work, three months ago at the age of 21. By the time the recruiter identifies this young man however, he has since turned 22.

- ▶ *Should the recruiter proceed with completing a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for this young man?*



# OME Determination

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No, the recruiter should not complete a COE for the young man in the above scenario. Although the young man was likely eligible for the MEP at one time, the young man is not eligible for the MEP on the date that the recruiter identifies the young man, and therefore, the recruiter should not proceed with recruiting him for the program.

We note the present-tense used on the section of the National COE under the “Eligibility Data Certification” section. The interviewer’s (recruiter’s) signature is attached to a dated statement that indicates “... I am satisfied that these children **are** migratory children... and **thus eligible** as such for MEP services... [Emphasis added]”

Therefore, we consider the Interviewer’s signature (and Designated SEA Reviewer’s signature) to be indicative of the circumstances on the date the form is signed.

*Taken from FL ESCORT ID&R Forum, October 29, 2014, OME Presentation:  
Navigating the Murky Waters of MEP Eligibility;  
presented by Sarah Martinez and Celeste Rodriguez Jensen.*



## *Question to OME*

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A recruiter in Maine encounters a family - two parents and their 12 year old son - that moved together from Florida one month ago, in search of any type work. The mother has not been able to find work, but the father is currently employed picking blueberries. He just started the job a week ago. Immediately after the move, he worked a short-term construction job at an apartment complex.

- ▶ *Based on the information provided, is their child eligible for the MEP?*



# OME Determination

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Yes, the child is eligible for the MEP. Even though the father performed non-qualifying work immediately after the move, he still moved to seek or obtain any work, and obtained qualifying work (seasonal employment in agricultural work) “soon after” the move.

As a general rule of thumb, OME considers “soon after” the move to be 30 days, but we recognize that there might be extenuating circumstances that cause a delay in obtaining qualifying work more than 30 days after a move.

If the recruiter believes that such circumstances exist, and he/she still reasonably concludes that the worker obtained work “soon after the move”, the rationale should be clearly explained in the Comments section of the COE.

*Taken from FL ESCORT ID&R Forum, October 29, 2014, OME Presentation:  
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