

FS Unclear Q&A #1 1/30/26

Question 1: Unclear Rule has me feeling uneasy - it feels like it will contribute to overpayments. Is this correct?

Answer 1: Unclear Rule should not be viewed as contributing to overpayments. This rule has been in place at the federal level for approximately 10 years. This rule would not have been created/allowed if it caused more overpayments. The rule's intent and purpose is to ease verification processes and avoid unnecessary case closures mid-certification period. If we apply Unclear Rule correctly, we will reduce our workload and lower verification burdens on our clients.

Question 2: How does Unclear Rule impact overpayments and fraud referrals? Does this mean we can no longer pursue FoodShare fraud and overpayments when Unclear Rule is applied?

Answer 2: Unclear Rule has not changed policy related to FoodShare overpayments. BRITS referrals should still be made if you believe fraud and/or overpayments have occurred. Unclear Rule is a separate process and should not be tied into fraud and overpayment processing.

Question 3: Unclear Rule seems to put a lot of faith in client understanding of their change reporting rules. How can we be sure clients will follow through?

Answer 3: Client notices and change reporting rules can be confusing, and not all clients will follow through, but it is our responsibility to educate clients post-interview and during call center interactions. Reading the appropriate change reporting script at intake and renewal is more important than ever. Remember, Unclear Rule is designed to ease verification burdens and lighten the load on agencies and clients – please know that this change is a positive one long-term.