

Department may make such additional investigation as it may deem necessary, and shall make such decision as to the granting of assistance and the amount of assistance to be granted the applicant as in its opinion is justified and in conformity with the provisions of this Article. Applicants or recipients affected by such decisions of the State Department shall, upon request, be given reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair hearing by the State Department.

All decisions of the State Department shall be final and shall be binding upon the county involved and shall be complied with by the County Department.

15. **PERIODIC RECONSIDERATION AND CHANGES IN AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.** All assistance grants made under this Article shall be reconsidered by the County Department as frequently as may be required by the rules of the State Department. After such further investigation as the County Department may deem necessary or the State Department may require, the amount of assistance may be changed or assistance may be entirely withdrawn if the State or County Departments find that the recipient's circumstances have altered sufficiently to warrant such action.

16. **RECOVERY FROM A RECIPIENT.** If at any time during the continuance of assistance the recipient thereof becomes possessed of any property or income in excess of the amount stated in the application, it shall be the duty of the recipient immediately to notify the County Department of the receipt or possession of such property or income and the County Department may, after investigation, either cancel the assistance or alter the amount thereof in accordance with the circumstances. Any assistance paid before the recipient has come into possession of such property or income and in excess of his need shall be recoverable by the County Department as a debt due. One-half of the net income realized from all such claims shall be promptly paid or credited to the United States Government, and the balance divided between the State and the county in proportion to the amount of the assistance paid by each respectively.

17. **RECOVERY FROM THE ESTATE.** On the death of any recipient, the total amount of assistance paid under this Article shall be allowed as a preferred claim against his estate, ranking in order of priority, after funeral expenses, and prior to all other claims and expenses. One-half of the net amount realized from all such claims shall be promptly paid or credited to the United States Government, provided, that no such claim shall be enforced against any real estate of a recipient while it is occupied by the recipient's surviving spouse or dependents.