

Nevada Office of HIV/AIDS Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Guidance on Hispanic Surnames

DATE

May 20, 2015

PURPOSE OF UPDATE

This Policy Notice outlines the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) expectations for client eligibility determinations in the context of the Affordable Care Act implementation. With the expansion of health options for our clientele it has been recommended by HRSA that RWHAPs standardize the financial eligibility determinations with the eligibility process for these new coverage options, and the financial review for recertification.

BACKGROUND

Most people of Hispanic or Latino/a background use two last names or surnames. The two surnames are referred as the first apellido and the second apellido. Most Hispanic Americans, such as Pedro Pablo Zamora y Díaz have one or two given names (Pedro Pablo in the example), a paternal surname and a maternal surname. In this example the person may be referred to as Mr. Zamora or Mr. Zamora y Díaz but never as Mr. Díaz.

A child is given the surname of both their father and mother. The child receives the first surname of their father (which becomes the child's first surname) and the first surname of their mother (which becomes the child's second surname.)

When a woman gets married, she often does not change her name. Her first surname remains the same (her father's first), but her second surname could change to that of her husband. Sometimes the word 'de' is added between the two surnames to indicate that the second surname is her husband's. In today's world, many women do not change their name for professional or personal reasons. Unlike marriage-related name changes for women in the United States, typically under Hispanic naming convention, the woman in the marriage never changes her first surname (the name from her father.)

PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITY

When entering the legal names of Hispanic clients into CAREWare, it may be somewhat confusing which name should go in the "last name" field. Follow the convention used on any legal document that is presented by the client. In the absence of documentation and/or if the document have conflicting information, use the client's father first surname (first apellido) as the beginning of the last name field. Additional surnames may be added in the field after the first surname.

CLIENT RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the client to provide the eligibility provider the requested government issued documentation that has the client's legal name affixed to it.

CITATION

State of Oregon. Oregon Health Authority. HIV Community Services Program. CAREWare 5.0 User Guide. July 2014. Web. May 2015. Pages 10-11.