



**U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
San Juan Hub Office Of Public Housing
Region IV**

May 5, 2009

Dear Executive Director/Program Coordinator:

This letter has the purpose of advice your Housing Authority staff that a sworn statement is not necessary to comply with HUD regulations when obtaining a declaration or certification from a program participant to document or verify the information supply by the family when the PHA or HUD determines is necessary in the administration of the program.

According to 24 CFR Part 982.551 the participant families of the Section 8 Tenant Based Assistance: Housing Choice Voucher Program (1) must supply any information that the PHA or HUD determines is necessary in the administration of the program, including submission of required evidence of citizenship or eligible immigration status (as provided by 24 CFR part 5). "Information" includes any requested certification, release or other documentation.

(2) The family must supply any information requested by the PHA or HUD for use in a regularly schedule reexamination or interim reexamination of family income and composition in accordance with HUD requirements. (3) The family must disclose and verify social security numbers (as provided by Part 5, subpart B, of this title) and must sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information in accordance with Part 5, subpart B, of this title. Finally the statute also states that; (4) any information supplied by the family must be true and complete.

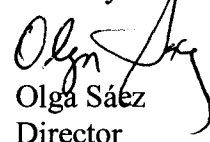
Attached is a sample of a certification or declaration from a participant that by signing it will be assuming the legal responsibilities and is expose to be sanctioned or processed if the information provided is false or fraudulent.

The certification clearly affirm and states that it is known by the deponent that if the statement or declaration is not truth, he or she besides being exposed to a criminal process for perjury or violation of the federal laws, will be subjected to the cancellation of the assisted housing contract or housing subsidy being granted before, and to return all the rent subsidy received.

We encourage your Housing Authority staff to use the model of certification or declaration attached when obtaining the information requested to the participant family. It does not have to be sworn before a lawyer to have the effectiveness when enforcing it legally or administratively. This will also facilitate and expedite the program administration and participant family paperwork when executing admissions and reexaminations.

For further clarification please contact your HUD Field Office specialist.

Thank you.


Olga Sáez
Director

*HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community
development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination.*