

# Welfare Sys.

In an effort to reduce client and agency error in the state's welfare system, persons now applying for Aid to Families with Dependent Children must provide verification or documentary proof of vital information on their application before eligibility can be determined.

In announcing this change from what was basically an "honor" system to a verification system, Commissioner Frederick McGinnis of Health and Social Services said applicants must verify all income and resources information, family relationships, children's ages, addresses, divorces, deaths or disabilities, and other factors concerning eligibility.

"Documents of proof include birth records, medical reports, employment check stubs, school records, rent receipts, adoption papers, and last year's income tax statement. These are now being required of every applicant," McGinnis said.

A similar approach has been an on-going practice in the Food Stamp Program.

"We are alerting all related agencies of this change and our district offices of Family and Children Services are providing detailed information upon request," McGinnis added.

The commissioner said that "while the initial application process is time consuming, it serves to reduce Alaska's error rate on both the part of the applicant and the eligibility worker and thus in the long run is most beneficial."

He emphasized that "decreasing our error rate is one of our priority goals in 1974."