

## Investigation and Prevention

### General Principle

The band social development worker (BSDW) must inform clients of their rights and responsibilities with regard to social assistance benefits.

### Policy

Informing clients of their rights and responsibilities will assist them to receive the benefits to which they are entitled, while not incurring overpayments.

At the time of application or annual reviews, the BSDW should remind the client that by signing documents such as the *Application for Social Assistance* (901-27) or the *Social Assistance Monthly Renewal Declaration* (901-28) they make the documents legally binding, and that the information contained in them is subject to verification.

A false declaration on the application or monthly renewal form is an offense under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

The BSDW should explain to eligible clients, at the time of application or annual reviews, their responsibilities with regard to on-going eligibility for benefits.

Recipients are required to report monthly any change in circumstances that affect eligibility.

The BSDW must investigate and follow up all matters pertaining to suspected or alleged fraud or overpayment of social assistance.