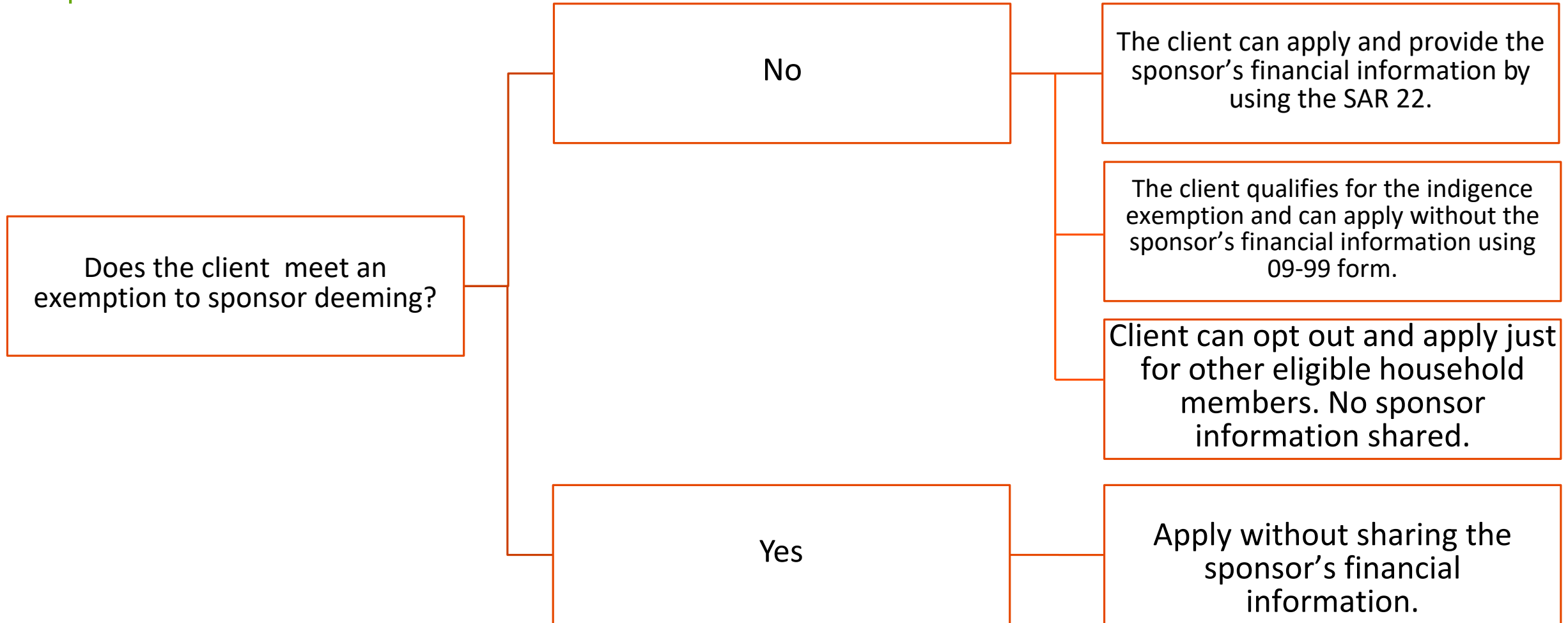


STEPS TO TAKE WHEN WORKING WITH SPONSORED NONCITIZENS



CalFresh: Sponsorship Avenues for Immigrant Families

CalFresh is not considered in a public charge test. This final rule has officially went into effect December 23rd, 2022 (which can be read here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/09/09/2022-18867/public-charge-ground-of-inadmissibility>), which officially means that applying for and receiving CalFresh benefits will not affect immigration status.

Clients who are non-citizens (most commonly legal permanent residents) may be required to sponsor deem, which is the process in which the county looks at the *sponsor's income* to determine the amount the sponsor should be providing for the sponsored LPR. It is a common misconception, but the sponsor's income is **not counted** against the client in the applicant's CalFresh application.

Clients have 4 main options when it comes to Sponsor Deeming:

1. First, clients can determine if they're **eligible for a sponsor deeming exemption** (meaning they are exempt from the sponsor deeming process). If they are eligible for an exemption, they can apply without sponsor deeming.
 - a. Applicants are not required to sponsor deem if they:
 - i. Are Naturalized citizens
 - ii. Have 40 qualifying work quarters (roughly 10 years in the US of work history)
 - iii. Sponsor has passed away (verification may be required, such as death certificate or sworn statement)
 - iv. Arrived before December 19th, 1997
 - v. Survivor of human trafficking, domestic violence, serious crime
 - vi. Have no sponsor (refugee, asylees, granted withholding of deportation)
 - vii. Are under the age of 18
2. If clients are **Indigent** (meaning their income plus ANY assistance received is **at or below the 130% Federal Poverty Level**), they are eligible to fill out the [09-99 USCIS Indigency Exemption Form](#).
 - a. They will have to provide their sponsor's name and contact information if known.
 - b. The county is required to share this form with United States Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS), which may sound scary; however, there have been no negative consequences seen. Again, I'd like to emphasize that to our knowledge, there have been **no negative consequences** for either the applicant or the applicant's sponsor.
3. If the client and their sponsor are willing, they can **provide their sponsor's financial information** using the [SAR 22 form](#).
 - a. This must be filled out by the sponsor during initial application and every 6 months after, during the SAR-7 and Recertification periods.
4. Lastly, clients can choose to **opt out** and apply for their eligible household members.
 - a. For example, a father may opt out and apply for CalFresh benefits for his children.
 - b. Clients are not required to disclose their immigration status at any time; they only need to tell the county they are choosing to opt out.

Receiving CalFresh benefits will not affect anyone's immigration status and should have no effect on their sponsor (whether they choose to share their sponsor's information or not).

