1973. No. 93 **[C]**

WELFARE SERVICES

Welfare Foods

REGULATIONS, DATED 27TH MARCH 1973, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, UNDER THE WELFARE FOODS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1968.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, on behalf of the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 1(3) of the Welfare Foods Act (Northern Ireland) 1968(**a**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf and with the consent of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Welfare Foods (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1973.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations the expression "the principal regulations" means the Welfare Foods Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971(**b**), as amended by the Welfare Foods (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971(**c**).

Amendments of the principal regulations

3.—(1) Regulation 3 of the principal regulations (meaning of a family in special circumstances) shall be amended as follows:—

(*a*) For the words from the begininning of paragraph (1) to the words "following modifications—" there shall be substituted the following:

> "For the purposes of these regulations, a beneficiary shall be deemed to belong to a family in special circumstances—
>
> (i) if and for as long as that family is entitled to receive supplementary benefit in acordance with the provisions of Part II of the Supplementary Benefits &c. Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(**d**); or
>
> (ii) in respect of any period during which his requirements exceed his resources when calculated or estimated by the Ministry according to the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 7 to 11, 12A, 12B (in so far as it relates to persons to whom paragraph 11 applies), 13 and 15 to 29 of Schedule 2 to the Supplementary Benefits &c. Act (Northern Ireland) 1966, subject to the following modifications—"

(**a**) 1968. c. 26 (N.I.).
(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971, No. 88.
(**c**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971, No. 367.
(**d**) 1966. c. 28. (N.I.).

(*b*) After paragraph (2) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

"(2A) A beneficiary deemed to belong to a family in special circumstances by virtue of sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (1) shall continue to belong to such a family for such period as the Ministry may allow, being a period of not more than 12 months or, where the beneficiary is a child, until he attains the age of 5 years and 1 month, whichever is the earlier:

Provided that—

(i) where a mother in a family in special circumstances becomes an expectant mother during any such period, she shall be deemed to be a beneficiary in that family during that period without making a further application under these regulations;

(ii) where, during the period of 6 months immediately preceding 1st April 1973 and expiring on or after that date a beneficiary belonged to a family in special circumstances, such a beneficiary shall continue to belong to such a family for such further period as the Ministry may allow, being a period of not more than 6 months from the date of expiry or, where the beneficiary is a child, until he attains the age of 5 years and 1 month, whichever is the earlier."

(2) Regulation 5 of the principal regulations (entitlement to welfare food other than liquid milk) shall be amended as follows:—

(*a*) in paragraph (1) for the words "such a person belongs to a family in special circumstances" there shall be substituted the words "a person is a beneficiary of a class defined in regulation 2(1), (*a*), (*b*) or (*c*)";

(*b*) in column (4) of Schedule 2 for the words "Quantity of welfare food supplied free of charge to beneficiaries in a family in special circumstances" there shall be substituted the words "Quantity of welfare food supplied free of charge to beneficiaries of a class defined in regulation 2(1), (*a*), (*b*) or (*c*)".

(3) In regulation 8(4) of the principal regulations (use of tokens) for the words "in a family in special circumstances" there shall be substituted the words "of a class defined in regulation 2(1), (*a*), (*b*) or (*c*)".

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland this 27th day of March 1973.

(L.S.)

N. I. Kells,
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland hereby consents to these regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 27th day of March 1973.

(L.S.)

David Clement,
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations amend the Welfare Foods Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971 by providing that awards of free welfare food to beneficiaries in families in special circumstances (other than those in receipt of supplementary benefit) shall continue for such period as the Ministry may allow being a period of up to 12 months, irrespective of changes in family income during that period. A mother in such a family who becomes pregnant during the period of an award shall be entitled to receive tokens for the remainder of the period without submitting a further claim. Additionally, where a beneficiary belonged to such a family during the six months immediately preceding the date of coming into operation of these Regulations and expiring on or after that date, he shall continue to belong to such a family for such further period as the Ministry may allow, being a period of up to six months.

The Regulations also provide that entitlement to free welfare vitamins shall be extended to an expectant or nursing mother who already has two young children and to all but two of the young children in any one family, not being a family in special circumstances.

These amendments bring the Regulations into line with those in force in Great Britain, where a similar Welfare Foods Scheme operates.