



**Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development
Division of Housing Stabilization**

To: DHCD Field Staff
From: Robert Pulster, Associate Director
Date: June 8, 2011
RE: Housing Stabilization Notice 2011-02, Guidance on Definition of *Spouse* and *Stepparent*

This Housing Stabilization Notice explains the meaning of the term *spouse* and *stepparent* as used in the 106 C.M.R. § 309.020 (A). This notice is effective immediately.

Definition of *Marriage*

The term *stepparent*, as used in 106 C.M.R. § 309.020 (A) (1), shall mean, “an individual with whom a parent of the needy child is involved as a couple in an inter-dependent relationship that is intended to be long-term.”

The term *spouse*, as used in 106 C.M.R. § 309.020 (A) (2), shall mean, “an individual with whom the pregnant woman is involved as a couple in an inter-dependent relationship that is intended to be long-term.”