

APPLICATION: YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Time Limits

You can only receive Financial Assistance to Needy Families for 60-months in your lifetime. Months you received this assistance while you were a child do not count towards the lifetime limit. Your time limit begins when you receive benefits as an adult. **There is no time limit on State Supplement Programs, Medical Assistance, Food Stamp benefits, or child care assistance.**

Administrative Appeal

You or someone representing you may request an Administrative Appeal if you are not satisfied with any decision regarding eligibility made by DHHS. You may be represented by an attorney, yourself, or another person, such as a relative or friend, at an Administrative Appeal. DHHS will not pay for the cost of any legal services, but there are free and reduced cost legal services available in NH. An Administrative Appeal may be requested either verbally or in writing by contacting a District Office or DHHS, 105 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301-6521. Telephone (603) 271-4292 or 1-800-852-3345 ext 4292; TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 or 711.

- hours worked by a household member;
- amount of income of any member in your household;
- all household changes, such as marriage, divorce, new baby, child leaves, etc.;
- child care provider;
- resources (e.g., cash, stocks, bonds, or money in a bank or savings account);
- receipt of any lump sum payment or settlement;
- residence, or shelter costs; or
- dependent care costs, child support payments or medical deductions, or other changes that may affect the amount of your household's benefits.

Protection of Medical Assistance for Social Security Beneficiaries

If you are receiving cash assistance under the OAA, ANB, or APTD program, and a Social Security cost-of-living increase or this increase combined with an increase in other income makes you ineligible for financial assistance, you may still be entitled to Medical Assistance under the Pickle Amendment policy.

Once you begin receiving Medical Assistance under the Pickle Amendment, future Social Security cost-of-living increases will not affect your eligibility. However, other changes in your circumstances can still make you ineligible for Medical Assistance.

If you are eligible to receive money payments under one of the above programs, but choose not to receive a payment, you will **NOT** be entitled to this protection of your Medical Assistance under the Pickle Amendment.

Quality Control

Your case may be selected for a quality control or other governmental review. Such a review entails an in-depth investigation into your household's financial or medical situation, living arrangements and other circumstances. We may be contacting banks, employers, companies, merchants, child care providers, and other appropriate sources, concerning your household and statements you made to DHHS. **Failure to cooperate in these reviews could result in the loss of your benefits.**

Reporting Changes

You will be required to periodically complete a review of your circumstances. Your cash, child care, and Food Stamp case could be closed, and/or your eligibility for Medical Assistance may be affected, if you do not completely fill out the form and return it by the due date and participate in a personal interview, if required.

If you only get Food Stamp benefits and you have a 4, 5, or 6-month eligibility period, you only need to report those changes in household circumstances that would place your household's income above 130% of the poverty level.

If you receive cash, child care, Medical Assistance, or if your Food Stamp eligibility period is not 4, 5, or 6 months, then you must notify the Department within 10 calendar days after the change happens for changes in factors that affect eligibility, such as:

- source of income;

Notice to Immigrant Families

If you get help with health care or Food Stamps, it will not affect your immigration status. If you or members of your family used or received Medicaid or Food Stamps, it will not affect your or your family members' ability to become U.S. citizens.

However, if you get cash assistance such as TANF or help with the cost of nursing home care, it might create problems with becoming a U.S. citizen, especially if the benefits are your family's only income. Before you apply, you may want to talk with an agency that helps immigrants with legal questions or contact the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

ATTENTION!

Anything you tell or give to us will be verified:

- at the federal, state and local levels; and also
- through collateral contacts and/or computer matching with other electronic verification tools such as, but not limited to, USCIS, IEVS, Vital Records, SSA, financial institutions, & employment databases.

We do this to confirm your eligibility for our programs and determine your benefits. If any information we get from using these sources doesn't match the information you provided to us, you may be denied assistance, your benefits may change, and you may be subject to criminal prosecution for knowingly providing false information. Any member of your household who breaks any of these rules on purpose can be prohibited from participating in the cash assistance, child care assistance, and Food Stamp programs for periods ranging from one year to permanently. In the Food Stamp Program, you can also be fined up to \$250,000, imprisoned up to 20 years, or both, and will be subject to prosecution under the applicable state and federal laws for violations of the Food Stamp Act. If you are convicted, the court may also bar you from participating in the program for another 18 months, in addition to the sentence you receive.

DO NOT

- **Do not** give false information or hide information to get or continue to get benefits.
- **Do not** trade or sell Food Stamp (FS) benefits to anyone who is not authorized to use them for your household.
- **Do not** use FS benefits to buy ineligible items.
- **Do not** use any benefits your household was not entitled to receive.
- **Do not** give your EBT Card PIN out to anyone.
- **Do not** use child care services paid for by DHHS, for employment-related activities not approved by DHHS.
- **Do not** use your EBT card or cash from your EBT card at stores in which more than 50% of visible inventory is alcohol, or that primarily engage in body piercing, branding, or tattooing, gaming establishments, or cigar, pipe, smoke, or tobacco stores/stands/shops, most marijuana dispensaries, or businesses in which more than 50% of visible inventory being sold or rented is adult-oriented entertainment.
- **Do not** try to buy food with your FS benefits unless you have your EBT card with you at the time you buy the food. You may not buy food on 1 day and pay for it with your EBT FS benefits on another day.

Identity & Residence

An individual who DHHS has determined has made or is convicted of having made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect to the identity or place of residence in order to receive multiple benefits at the same time will be ineligible for financial assistance and Food Stamp benefits for 10 years.

Trafficking Food Stamp (FS) Benefits

Any person who is found guilty in a court of law:

- Of trading of a controlled substance in exchange for FS benefits, will be prohibited from participating in the FS Program for 24 months for the 1st offense and permanently for the 2nd offense.
- For the trading of ammunition, firearms, or explosives in exchange for FS benefits, or of any

trafficking in FS benefits of more than \$500, will become permanently ineligible for FS benefits.

- For buying or selling FS benefits will be suspended from the FS Program for 1 year for the 1st offense, 2 years for the 2nd offense, and permanently for the 3rd.

Medical Assistance Fraud

Section 1128B of the Social Security Act provides federal penalties for fraudulent acts and false reporting in connection with your application for or receipt of Medical Assistance benefits.

A person may be prosecuted in Federal Court for deliberate statements that are known to be false and which affect eligibility for any benefit or payment under the Medical Assistance program.

A person may also be prosecuted for concealing or failing to disclose any event that affects their right to any benefit or payment, or its conversion to a use other than intended. The law also provides a penalty for a kickback, bribe, or rebate in connection with the furnishing of Medical Assistance.

Conviction of an offense could result in loss of Medical Assistance benefits for a period not to exceed 1 year. Penalties are fines up to \$25,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

Intentional False Statements/Program Violations (IPV)

Any person who intentionally makes a false statement or misrepresents his or her circumstances or intentionally fails to disclose the receipt of property, wages, income or resources or any change in circumstances that would affect his or her initial or continued eligibility for assistance may be found guilty of violating state law. The penalties are: a class A felony where the value of the monetary award or goods or services exceeds \$1,000; a class B felony where the value exceeds \$100; and a misdemeanor where the value does not exceed \$100. RSA 167:17-b and 17-c.

Anyone who commits an intentional program violation (IPV) in the Food Stamp Program cannot get these benefits for 12 months for the 1st violation, 24 months for the 2nd violation, and permanently for a 3rd IPV.