

Addendum to Food Stamp Forms

This is to notify you of new penalties for program violations, and new eligibility factors that have been made to comply with Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. Starting on September 21, 1996, the following information replaces any conflicting information on food stamp forms, such as: the Application for Food Stamps, Public Assistance Application, Change Report Form, Public Assistance Eligibility Report (PAER) and Review/Recertification Eligibility Document (RRED).

Eligibility for Expedited Service: Being homeless (having no regular place of your own to live) no longer is a qualification for expedited service. You still can get food stamps right away if you meet the income and resource guidelines for expedited service.

Household Members: All children under age 22 who live with their parents must be included in the same household. Separate household status is no longer allowed for children under age 22 who live with their parents and also live with children of their own or their spouse.

Failure to Comply with Work Requirements: People aged 16 through 59 who are not exempt from work requirements who, without good cause, voluntarily quit a job, voluntarily reduce hours of work to less than 30 hours per week, or fail to comply with any other work requirement, or employment and training will be disqualified from the food stamp program for:

- The first violation, for 2 months or until they comply with the requirement, whichever is later.
- The second violation, for 3 months or until they comply with the requirement, whichever is later.
- The third violation or more violations, for 6 months or until they comply, whichever is later.

If the person who committed the violation is the head of your household, your entire household will be disqualified for the above periods of time.

Penalty Warning

A person who breaks any of the following rules on purpose will not be able to get food stamp benefits for **1 year the first time, 2 years the second time, and forever the third time**. A court can also order a person off the program for an additional 18 months. The person can also be fined up to \$250,000, sent to jail for up to 20 years, or both.

Do not give wrong answers or hide information to get food stamp benefits.

Do not trade or sell food stamp benefits.

Do not change any cards or forms to get or use food stamp benefits.

Do not use someone else's food stamp benefits for your household.

Do not use food stamp benefits to buy ineligible items, like alcoholic drinks and tobacco.

A person found to have traded food stamps for a controlled substance will not get food stamp benefits for 2 years, the first time, and the second time will not get food stamp benefits again.

A person convicted of trafficking food stamp benefits of \$500 or more will never get food stamps again.

Individuals found guilty of fraud for lying about their identity or residency in order to get food stamp benefits in more than one household at a time will not get food stamp benefits for 10 years.

Fleeing felons and probation or parole violators cannot get food stamp benefits.

Release of Information to Law Enforcement Officers

The address, social security number, and any photograph of a member of your household will be given to a law enforcement officer who notifies the Department that the person is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or confinement for a felony, is in violation of parole or probation, or has information that the officer needs for a felony, parole or probation violation investigation.