

## Items you can purchase with your SNAP benefits:

Foods such as breads, cereals, fruits, vegetables, meats, fish, poultry, and dairy products.

Seeds and plants that you can use to grow your own foods.



## Items that you CANNOT PURCHASE with your SNAP benefits include but are not limited to:

Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes or other tobacco products, pet food, prepared or "hot foods", vitamins or medicines, other nonfood items such as tissues, soap, cosmetics, or other household goods.

For additional information about what can and cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits, please visit the USDA FNS website:

[www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items)

## How To Report SNAP Fraud

Report to Alabama DHR:

(334) 242-1700

[fs@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto:fs@dhr.alabama.gov)

Report to USDA:

(800) 424-9121

[usda\\_hotline@oig.usda.gov](mailto:usda_hotline@oig.usda.gov)

### USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audio-tape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, (AD-3027) found online at:

[http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202)690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

All programs of the Department of Human Resources are administered in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all other federal and state civil rights laws.

DHR Publication Series 99-2



# Avoiding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



## EBT Card Security and Management



Your EBT card should only be used by you, members of your SNAP household, or an authorized representative.

An authorized representative is someone you have named to the agency to make purchases with your SNAP benefits on your behalf.

Your Personal Identification Number (PIN) is not to be given out.

Remember your PIN. Never write your PIN on your card or keep it with your card. Only members of your household who use your card should know the PIN.

If your EBT card is lost, stolen, or does not work, report it to your local DHR Office immediately so it can be inactivated and a new card can be mailed to you.

Do not use another household's EBT card unless you are an authorized representative for their household.

Do not pay off credit or charge accounts with stores with your EBT card.

If all benefits on your EBT card have been used, do not throw the card away. You can use the same card every month for as long as you receive SNAP benefits.

## Trafficking

Trafficking is the trade or attempt to trade your SNAP benefits, EBT card, or PIN for anything other than eligible food items for your household.

### Trafficking includes but is not limited to:

- Selling SNAP benefits, EBT Cards, or PINs to someone else.
- Buying SNAP benefits, EBT Cards, or PINs from someone else.
- Stealing someone else's SNAP benefits, EBT Card, or PIN.
- Exchanging your benefits for anything other than eligible food items.
- Buying SNAP eligible items and then reselling them for cash.
- Attempting to commit any of the acts mentioned above.
- Attempting includes offering to buy or sell SNAP benefits, EBT cards, or PINs on Facebook or any other form of social media, anywhere online, via text message, or any other form of communication.
- Frequent requests for SNAP EBT card replacements are monitored. Your local office may suspect that something is wrong and look more closely at your account.

## PENALTIES FOR FRAUD AND ABUSE

SNAP Fraud is against the law. Fraud includes giving false information on an application, failing to report changes, trafficking (selling or trading) your benefits, card or PIN, and misuse of the food benefits to buy things besides food.

**IF YOU ARE FOUND GUILTY  
OF FRAUD,  
YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED  
FROM**

**AND BE ASKED TO PAY BACK  
THE AMOUNT OBTAINED  
FRAUDULENTLY,  
TRAFFICKED, OR MISUSED.  
IN ADDITION, YOU MAY FACE  
CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

*The usual program  
disqualification periods are:*

**1st Offense.....12 Months**  
**2nd Offense.....24 Months**  
**3rd Offense.....Permanently**