

## How Can I Report Fraud?

To report suspected Temporary Assistance or SNAP fraud:

**Online:** [dss.mo.gov/dls/public-assistance-fraud-form.htm](https://dss.mo.gov/dls/public-assistance-fraud-form.htm)

**Email:** [DLS.ReportFraud@dss.mo.gov](mailto:DLS.ReportFraud@dss.mo.gov)

**Phone:** 877-770-8055

To report suspected MO HealthNet fraud, waste, or abuse to Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance (MMAC), contact:

**MMAC Fraud Hotline:** 573-751-3285

**MMAC Fraud Email:**

[MMAC.ReportFraud@dss.mo.gov](mailto:MMAC.ReportFraud@dss.mo.gov)

### If You Have Questions

Please contact the Family Support Division at **855-373-4636** if you have any questions regarding your case or the information in this pamphlet.



## Our Mission

**Empower Missourians to live safe, healthy, and productive lives.**

**Missouri Department of Social Services Family Support Division is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.**

**TDD/TTY: 800-735-2966,**

**Relay Missouri: 711**



To file a complaint of discrimination write:

USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.

Washington, DC 20250-9410

or call (866) 632-9992 (voice)

or (202) 401-0216 (TTY)

or

Office of Civil Rights

P.O. Box 1527

Jefferson City, MO 65102-1527

The Missouri Department of Social Services is an equal opportunity provider.

# Information you need about Public Assistance Fraud



## What is Fraud?

Fraud is committing a crime by saying things you know are not true so you can get benefits you are not entitled to get.

You are committing fraud if you:

- Hide information about eligibility
- Do not report changes as required
- Speak or write false or misleading statements
- Change or falsify documents

The State of Missouri protects your tax dollars through the detection and prevention of fraud. Their goal is to discourage fraud through investigation, public education, and prosecution of those who commit fraud.

## Why Fight Fraud?

Public assistance programs are funded by state and federal funds. They are intended to support people through difficult times and help them get back on the road to self-sufficiency.

There are a limited amount of tax dollars available to fund public assistance programs. Preventing fraud and abuse protects the integrity of these programs so that the funds are available for people in need.

## What are the Penalties of Fraud?

### Restitution

All money that was fraudulently received must be repaid. The debt can be repaid through:

- Recoupment – Current monthly benefits may be reduced by 10% until the debt is repaid
- Payment Plan – Money that was fraudulently received may be repaid through a monthly payment plan.

### Criminal Penalties

The crime of stealing or attempting to steal public assistance benefits valued at \$750.00 or more is punishable by:

- 1 year in county jail, or
- 5 years in prison, or
- Fine of \$10,000

The crime of stealing or attempting to steal public assistance benefits valued at less than \$750.00 is a misdemeanor.

The misuse of EBT benefits is a criminal offense. If an individual is found guilty of an offense, they must pay full restitution to the state of Missouri.

### Disqualification

If convicted of making false statements about your identity or residency in order to receive Temporary Assistance or SNAP in more than one state at the same time, you will be ineligible for Temporary Assistance and/or SNAP for 10 years.

## Your Responsibilities

**As a public assistance recipient, there are responsibilities you must follow:**

- Always provide complete and accurate information to the Family Support Division (FSD).
- Report required changes in your situation within 10 days of the date they happen.
- Assist in getting verification necessary to support your statements.
- Look at your medical bills carefully and make sure you received all the services listed.
- Do not share your MO HealthNet number or your medical records with anyone but your doctor or other health care provider.
- Do not let anyone borrow your MO HealthNet card.
- Do not share your EBT card or PIN information.
- If you suspect fraud, REPORT IT.

