

A Lot is at Stake!

You can get cash and food benefits, medical coverage, child care assistance, job services, education and training when eligible by being **truthful** and **accurate** when providing information to the Division of Public Assistance.

Learn your reporting requirements and **REMEMBER** to **REPORT CHANGES** to a caseworker within **TEN DAYS**. For Temporary Assistance, report within five days when a child leaves the home.

If you commit fraud, you will **LOSE** cash and food benefits, be disqualified from the program, have to pay back benefits, or even serve jail time.

How to Report Fraud

Report fraud in writing, in person or via telephone by contacting the Division of Public Assistance, Fraud Control Unit. **Allegations may be kept anonymous.** Please provide Fraud Control with as much detail as you can and answer any questions they may have.

If You Have Questions

Please contact your local Public Assistance office if you have any questions regarding your Public Assistance case or the information presented in this brochure.

How to Contact the Fraud Control Unit

In Anchorage: (907) 269-1060

Toll Free: 1-800-478-6406

Mailing: 3601 C Street, Suite 200

E-Mail: Anchorage, AK 99503
fraud_allegations@alaska.gov

For More Information See our Website at:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/features/org/fraud.aspx>

Public Assistance Offices

Bethel District Office

543-2686 or 800-478-2686

Coastal Field Office 1

269-8950 or 800-478-4372

Coastal Field Office 2

269-6529

Eagle River Job Center

694-7006 or 269-0001

* Fairbanks Job Center

451-2850 or 800-478-2850

Gambell District Office

269-6599 or 888-876-2477

Homer District Office

226-3040 or 877-235-2421

Juneau District Office

465-3537 or 800-478-3537

* Kenai Peninsula Job Center

283-2900 or 800-478-9032

Ketchikan District Office

225-2135 or 800-478-2135

Kodiak District Office

486-3783 or 888-480-3783

Kotzebue District Office

442-3451 or 800-478-3451

* Mat-Su District Office

376-3903 or 800-478-7778

Muldoon District Office

269-6029 or 888-876-2477

Nome District Office

443-2237 or 800-478-2236

Senior Benefits Office

352-4150 or 888-352-4150

Sitka District Office

747-8234 or 800-478-8234

Statewide Information Hotline (IVR)

269-5777 (Anchorage) or 888-804-6330

* Fraud Control Unit

269-1060 or 800-478-6406

* *Fraud Investigator on location*

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STATE OF ALASKA

Dept. of Health & Social Services
Division of Public Assistance

Help Us Stop Fraud!



INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FRAUD



About Fraud



The State of Alaska's Public Assistance programs are protected through the detection and prevention of fraud.

Our goal is to discourage fraud through investigation, public education and prosecuting people who put in fraudulent claims for assistance.

What is Fraud?

Fraud is **intentionally** making false statements, misrepresenting facts, or situations to get benefits a person is not eligible to receive.

A person commits fraud if they deliberately:

- ◆ *Alter or forge paperwork*
- ◆ *Conceal, misrepresent or withhold eligibility information*
- ◆ *Fail to report changes as required*
- ◆ *Speak or write false or misleading statements*

Fraud Investigations

The Fraud Control Unit of the Division of Public Assistance investigates fraudulent activity. Reports of possible fraud often come from calls from the public or agency workers.

Penalties & Consequences

For those who have committed public assistance fraud here are the consequences they face:

Alaska Temporary Assistance Program

- 1st violation — 6-month disqualification
- 2nd violation — 12-month disqualification
- 3rd violation — Permanent disqualification

Food Stamp Program

- 1st violation — 12-month disqualification
- 2nd violation — 24-month disqualification
- 3rd violation — Permanent disqualification

If a person makes false statements about where they live or who they are to get benefits from more than one state at the same time, they will be disqualified from Alaska Temporary Assistance and food stamps for 10 years.



Remember, we are here to help!

Please ask us if you have any questions about public assistance fraud.

Restitution

Offenders will be required to pay back all money they fraudulently received. This includes Medicaid and any other program services. The debt can be repaid through:

- ◆ **Recoupment**—Current monthly benefits will be reduced by 10% for ATAP and 20% for Food Stamps.
- ◆ **Garnishment**—Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) checks, IRS tax refunds or paychecks may be taken away.
- ◆ **Payment Plan**—Offenders may choose a monthly payment plan.



Prosecution

Cases involving lots of money, blatant fraud and those with prior fraud history will be referred to the Department of Law, Welfare Fraud Section for criminal prosecution.

Fraud penalties may include loss of benefits, criminal prosecutions and seizure of paychecks and PFDs!