

Your Basic Rights and Responsibilities

- If you are an applicant or recipient of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in Massachusetts, you certify under penalty of perjury that you have read, or have had read to you, the information in any SNAP application you submit and your answers to the questions in any application you submit and such answers are true and complete to the best of your knowledge.
- You understand that giving false or misleading statements or misrepresenting, hiding or withholding facts, either orally or in writing, to establish eligibility for SNAP is fraud, an Intentional Program Violation (IPV), and is punishable by civil and criminal penalties.
- You understand that the information you provide with your application will be subject to verification by Federal, State and local officials, to determine if such information is true; if any information is false, SNAP benefits may be denied, and you may be subject to criminal prosecution for knowingly providing false information.
- You understand that the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) administers SNAP, and that DTA has 30 days from the date of application to process the application.
- You understand that you have a right to speak to a supervisor, if you are determined ineligible for expedited SNAP benefits and you disagree, or if you are determined eligible for expedited service but do not receive your SNAP benefits by the seventh calendar day after the date you applied for SNAP.
- You understand that all household members between the ages of 16 and 59 are automatically work-registered and enrolled in the SNAP Employment and Training Program (SNAP/E&T). The automatic SNAP/E&T enrollment allows household members to easily access SNAP/E&T services. Household members who are required to register for work (nonexempt) will be notified of work requirements, exemptions and penalties for noncompliance explained and be referred to an employment activity, if appropriate.
- You give permission to DTA to verify and investigate the information you have given that relates to your eligibility for assistance, to get any records or data and to verify information given with other agencies, including federal and state agencies, local housing authorities, out-of-state welfare departments, and financial institutions. You also give permission to these agencies to give to DTA information about your household that concerns your SNAP benefits.
- Prior to being approved for benefits, immigration status may be verified through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), formerly known as INS. You understand that DTA may submit information from your SNAP application to USCIS, and that any information received from USCIS may affect your household's eligibility and amount of benefits.
- You understand that you will receive a copy of the Your Right to Know brochure and the SNAP Program brochure, that you must read or have them read to you and that you must understand their contents and your rights and responsibilities.
- You also swear that all members of your SNAP household requesting SNAP benefits are either U.S. citizens or noncitizens in satisfactory immigration status.
- You understand you have the right to register to vote at DTA. You understand that DTA will help you fill out the voter registration application form if you want help and that you are allowed to fill out the voter registration application form in private. You understand that applying to register or declining to register to vote will not affect the amount of assistance you get from DTA.
- You understand that if you or any member of your SNAP household breaks any of the rules listed below on purpose, that person can be prohibited from receiving SNAP for one year to permanently, fined up to \$250,000, imprisoned up to 20 years or both. S/he may also be subject to prosecution under other applicable Federal and State laws. S/he may also be prohibited from receiving SNAP for an additional 18 months if court ordered.
- You understand that you have a right to an interpreter provided by DTA if no adult in your SNAP household is able to speak or understand English. You also understand that you can get an interpreter for any DTA fair hearing or bring one of your own. If you need an interpreter for a hearing, you must call the Division of Hearings at least one week before the hearing date.

(COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CAN BE FOUND IN THE SNAP APPLICATION)

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Rev. 05/24



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