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Electronic Benefit Transfer Photo Requirement Exemptions Report

March 2019



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE
ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER
PHOTO REQUIREMENT EXEMPTIONS REPORT**

MARCH 2019

REPORT OVERVIEW

Chapter 18 Section 2 (B)(s) requires DTA to file a report detailing the reasons someone would be exempt from having a photo on their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and the total number of exemptions that have been granted.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE MISSION

DTA's mission is to assist and empower low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency. DTA offers a comprehensive system of programs and supports to help individuals and families achieve greater economic self-sufficiency, including food and nutritional assistance, economic assistance, and employment supports.

DTA serves one out of every eight people in the Commonwealth including working families, children, elders, and people with disabilities.

EBT PHOTO REQUIREMENT

In August 2013, a law was passed requiring the use of photo identification on the front of each newly issued and reissued EBT card. This requirement was extended to any cardholder over 18.¹ Exemptions were included in the law stating that any cardholder falling into one of the following categories was exempt from the Photo EBT requirement:

- 60 years of age or over
- Blind
- Disabled
- Victim of domestic violence

Any individual DTA has exempted from the Photo EBT requirement falls into one of those categories. Individuals who are exempt may still request and receive a photo on their EBT card.

DTA must comply with federal requirements, as well as this state law. To accomplish this, DTA has exempted those who meet one of the state defined exemptions, and those who state their religious beliefs prevent them from having a photo on their EBT card. DTA has also received federal guidance regarding non-applicants.

¹ Cardholders are the Heads of Household of an Assistance Unit. Each Assistance Unit only receives one EBT card.

EBT PHOTO EXEMPTIONS BY PROGRAM

The following table, compiled as of February 1, 2019, depicts the number of program participants who, for the approved reason, are exempt from the photo requirement.

EXEMPTION	SNAP	TAFDC	EAEDC
Younger than 19	638	219	9
Older than 59	139,814	1,622	9,950
Domestic Violence	10,230	3,526	224
Disabled	227,501	9,726	9,201
Religious Exemption*	32	1	1
Non-Applicant**	1,845	124	65

* As protected by Federal law

** The United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) has informed DTA that any Head of Household that is not included in the household benefit calculation is exempt from having a photo on an EBT card. These individuals are not clients, but are caretakers of clients unable to serve as a Head of Household.