

South Carolina Department of Social Services
**SOUTH CAROLINA COMBINED APPLICATION PROJECT (SCCAP)
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Federal and State laws and regulations limit the use of confidential information concerning applicants and recipients of economic and medical assistance programs to the purposes directly related to the administration of these programs.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Social Security numbers will be used to check identity to prevent duplicate participation and to facilitate making mass changes. They will also be used in computer matching and program review or audits to make sure you are eligible for assistance.

Public Law 97-98 governing the Food Stamp (FS) Program requires that in order to participate in and receive benefits from the FS Program, a Social Security number (SSN) must be provided or application made for each person for whom benefits are requested.

Information obtained may affect your eligibility and level of benefits. Inaccurate or false information may result in criminal or civil action or administrative claims for fraudulent participation in the FS Program.

PENALTY WARNINGS

If you are found guilty of buying or selling firearms, ammunition or explosives with food stamps, you will never be able to get food stamps again.

If you are found guilty of buying or selling illegal drugs with food stamps, you will not be able to get food stamps for 12 months for the first offense and permanently for the second offense.

- **Do not** give false, incorrect or incomplete information.
- **Do not** trade, sell or alter Food Stamp coupons or Electronic Benefit (EBT) cards.
- **Do not** buy ineligible items such as alcoholic beverages or tobacco with Food Stamps.
- **Do not** use your EBT card to pay for food charged to a credit account.
- **Do not** use other people's EBT card or FS benefits.

If you break any of these rules on purpose, you may not be able to get any more Food Stamp benefits for a period of one year to permanently and may be fined up to \$250,000 or imprisoned up to twenty years or both for violations of \$5,000 or greater and would be subject to prosecution under other applicable Federal and State laws. A court can also bar an individual for an additional 18 months from the Program. If you receive Food Stamp benefits, any or all of your statements, written or oral, are subject to investigation. Your Food Stamp benefits may be terminated if you fail to cooperate in the investigations.

CHANGES

You must report all changes to the Social Security Office according to their requirements. Failure to do so is considered withholding information and will permit the Department to recover any benefits paid in error.

Special questions concerning your Food Stamp case should be directed to your local DSS office.

If you need further assistance, you may call the agency's toll free number 1-800-616-1309.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

For more information on how to file a complaint or to request a fair hearing, call 1-800-616-1309.