

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 your caseworker within **TEN DAYS**.

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 Public Assistance 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 or your caseworker 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
Anchorage, AK 99503

E-Mail: fraud_allegations@health.state.ak.us

Public Assistance Offices

Anchorage Gambell Job Center
269-6599

Anchorage Muldoon Job Center
269-0000

Anchorage Adult Public Assistance
269-6000

Bethel Job Center
543-2680 or 800-543-2686

Coastal Field Office (Kenai Peninsula, Western AK)
269-8950 or 800-478-4372

Denali KidCare (DKC)
269-6529

Eagle River Job Center
694-7006

*Fairbanks Job Center
451-2850 or 1-800-478-2850

Homer District Office
235-6132 or 800-478-9032

Juneau Job Center
465-3551 or 1-800-478-3551

*Kenai Peninsula Job Center
283-2900 or 800-478-9032

Ketchikan Job Center
228-2135 or 1-800-478-2135

Kodiak District Office
486-3783 or 888-480-3783

Kotzebue District Office
442-3451 or 800-478-3451

*Mat-Su Job Center
376-3903 or 800-478-7778

Sitka District Office
747-8234 or 800-478-8234

Southeast Adult Public Assistance and Special Medicaid
465-3537 or 800-478-3537

Statewide Information Hotline (IVR)
269-5777 (anchorage) or 888-804-6330

*Fraud Control Unit
269-1060

* **Fraud Investigator on location**

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 you are not eligible to receive.

You are committing fraud if you deliberately:

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

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 you make **false statements** to get benefits in more than one state at the same time, you will be disqualified from both programs for **ten years**.



Remember, we are here to help!

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

Restitution

All money that was fraudulently received must be repaid. 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!