

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

➤ **Having an Interview**

Sign the form, answer the questions, and send it to your Food and Nutrition Services worker. If you can't fill out the whole form it will be accepted as long as you provide a signature, legible name, and address. Your FNS worker will contact you to get more information. You may not be required to have an interview with your worker, but you can have one if you want it. If you are required to have an interview and fail to do so it will result in a delay or denial of benefits. You are responsible for rescheduling a missed interview and for providing required verification information.

➤ **We Check What You Tell Us**

Information you give us will be checked with Federal, State and local agencies. You must tell your Food and Nutrition Services worker the truth. Do not lie or hide information to get benefits that your household should not get. Otherwise, your case may be denied, and you may be taken to court and charged with a crime. If you are found guilty, you must pay back any Food and Nutrition Services you get that you should not have gotten. The first time this happens you could be disqualified from getting benefits for 12 months, the second time for 24 months, and the third time for the rest of your life. If you give false information about your identity or residence in order to get Food and Nutrition Services in more than one place, you will not get Food and Nutrition Services for 10 years. If you have a Food and Nutrition Services claim arise against you we will give your answers and Social Security Numbers to federal and state agencies, as well as private claims collection agencies, to collect the overpayment. All eligibility procedures are strictly supported by the Food and Nutrition Services policies. The other programs time limits or requirements do not affect your Food and Nutrition Services benefits. Your household may not be denied food assistance because your household has been denied benefits from other programs.

➤ **Proving the Things You Tell Us**

You must prove some of the things you tell your Food and Nutrition Services worker. We will use the social security number of every person included in your case to check the information you give us such as checking for wages with The Division of Employment Security. The information on this form and information obtained from other sources may cause your benefits to stop or change.

➤ **Law Enforcement Officer**

Please understand that if a law enforcement officer requests the address, social security numbers, or photographs in your file to assist in locating fugitive felons or probation/parole violators, the Department of Social Services must provide the information.

Getting Help With Your Telephone Bill

If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Food and Nutrition Services, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing (Sec. 8 Housing Assistance), or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit you may be eligible for a local telephone service discount.

Lifeline provides recipients a discount on monthly telephone service purchased from participating providers. Recipients can also purchase discounted broadband from participating providers. Discounts will apply to stand-alone broadband, bundled voice-broadband packages, either fixed or mobile and stand-alone voice service.

The Link-Up Program allows recipients who are Native Americans residing on federally recognized tribal lands a discount toward the cost of connecting local telephone service.

Households interested in these services must contact their telephone company to apply.

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➤ **Misusing Your Food and Nutrition Services**

If you are found by a court to have used Food and Nutrition Services to buy illegal drugs, you will stop getting Food and Nutrition Services for 12 months the first time and for the rest of your life the second time. If you are found by a court to have used Food and Nutrition Services to buy guns, ammunition, or explosives, or for selling Food and Nutrition Services of \$500 or more, you will not get Food and Nutrition Services for the rest of your life. Any member who intentionally breaks any of the rules, may not be able to get Food and Nutrition Services for one year for the first violation, two years for the second violation, and permanently for the third violation. If a court of law finds you guilty of using or receiving benefits in a transaction involving the sale of a controlled substance, you will be not be eligible for benefits for two years for the first violation, and permanently for the second violation. You may also be fined up to \$250,000 and/or jailed up to 20 years. If court ordered you may also be ineligible from the Food and Nutrition Services program for an additional 18 months. If a court finds you guilty of having trafficked benefits for \$500 or more, trading benefits for firearms, ammunition or explosives you will be permanently ineligible for Food and Nutrition Services. If you use your food assistance benefits to buy nonfood items, trade, or sell your benefits, pay on credit accounts, take someone's EBT card without authorization or let someone use yours you will lose your benefits.

➤ **Citizenship**

By signing this form, you affirm that you and everyone you included as an eligible member on your Food and Nutrition Services case is a United States citizen or is allowed by law to live in the United States. We may check the citizenship status of each included household member with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

➤ **Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

➤ **How To Get a Fair Hearing**

You have the right to ask for a hearing if you think your case is wrong. You have 90 calendar days to ask for a hearing. Unless you ask for a hearing by then, you cannot have one. A household member or someone else such as a lawyer, friend, or relative can represent you at a fair hearing.

➤ **Registering to Vote in North Carolina**

Registering to vote is easy in North Carolina. State law requires voters to register 25 days before an election. DSS can help you with registration paperwork. If you would like to register to vote, in North Carolina, you can complete a voter registration form at www.NCSBE.gov/nvra/01 or ask your caseworker for a voter registration form, and if you need help, to assist you in completing the form. **Applying to register or declining to register to vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided by this agency.** If you would like help in filling out the voter registration application form, we will help you. The decision whether either to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill out the application form in private. If you believe that someone has interfered with your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political preference, you may file a complaint with the North Carolina State Board of Elections, PO Box 27255, Raleigh NC 27611-7255, or you may call the toll free number, 1-866-522-4723.