

***A Serious Crime***

# Public Assistance Fraud

North Carolina Department Health and Human Services  
Division of Social Services and Medical Assistance



For More Information: Contact the appropriate  
division by calling the CareLine at 1-800-662-7030

*The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, political beliefs, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.*

***Please read carefully!***

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT YOUR COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.**

# A Serious Crime: Public Assistance Fraud

Some people do not give important information or do not tell the truth when applying for help through their county Department of Social Services.

Under North Carolina law, persons must give caseworkers all information needed to decide if they can receive benefits such as Work First Family Assistance, Food and Nutrition Services, Medicaid, Energy Assistance, Special and Emergency Assistance, and surplus commodities. Those who do not report correctly commit a crime.

The crime--public assistance fraud--is committed when people (1) get or try to get help by giving caseworkers false and incorrect information, or (2) do not give information.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF A PERSON IS FOUND GUILTY OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FRAUD?

A person found guilty of public assistance fraud can be 1) fined, 2) placed in jail, or 3) fined and placed in jail.

People guilty of Food and Nutrition Services fraud may get an even stiffer penalty. That penalty could include all of the above, and you may not be allowed to get Food and Nutrition Services for:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense - 1 year.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - 2 years.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - permanently.
- 1<sup>st</sup> time court finding of purchasing illegal drugs with Food and Nutrition Services - 2 years.
- Misrepresenting identity or residence to get Food and Nutrition Services in more than one place - 10 years.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

If you think someone is not being truthful with your county Department of Social Services, contact the local office. You may also call the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services through its CARE-LINE at 1-800-662-7030, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. The call is toll-free.

To make sure you do not commit public assistance fraud, answer these questions.

1. Have you told your caseworker about all the money you receive for yourself or your children?

	YES	NO
a. your job, full-time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
part-time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. your child's job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. your family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. your friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. child's father	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. roomers/boarders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Social Security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Workman's Compensation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. military allotment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. V.A. benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. unemployment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. savings, checking account	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. lump sum payments from Social Security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. any other source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Protect yourself!

Read this information carefully.

- Be sure to tell your caseworker everything he/she needs to decide the kind and amount of assistance you are eligible to receive.
- If you are not sure about what you told your caseworker in the past, call immediately.
- When your caseworker asks you a question, tell everything and be honest about it.
- Report any changes about you or any member of your household to your caseworker today.

2. Have you told your caseworker about all the people living in your home?

	YES	NO
a. a husband	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. a wife	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. a child	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. a friend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. any other relative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. any other person	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Have you told your caseworker about all the property you have or gave away, property you sold, or property you are buying and selling?

a. a home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. lifetime rights to property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. all cars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. stocks, bonds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. farmland and woodland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. any other person	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. bank accounts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Have you told your caseworker about all insurance policies?

a. life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. pre-burial contract	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. hospital	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. accident	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. farmland and woodland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. any other type	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Have you moved recently or do you plan to move? If yes, have you told your caseworker about your new address?

6. If you have a child older than 16 who does not go to school, have you reported this to your caseworker?

7. Have you told your caseworker the truth about the father or mother of your child(ren) and everything about his or her whereabouts?

If you answer "No" to any of the above questions, visit or call your caseworker immediately.

People suspected of committing public assistance fraud will be investigated without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, political beliefs, age or disability. If you think you have been discriminated against, write immediately USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.