

could be subject to prosecution under other federal laws.

Examples of Food Stamp Violations:

- giving false or misleading information or withholding facts in order to obtain food stamps;
- trading or selling your EBT card;
- buying ineligible items such as alcoholic drinks or tobacco with food stamps;
- using someone else's electronic benefit card to obtain food stamps for yourself; or
- trading food stamp benefits for guns, ammunition or explosives.

To report food stamp violations, call 1-800-241-2629.

If you get more **TennCare Medicaid** benefits than you are eligible for, you may have to repay the state for those benefits.

Abusing your TennCare Medicaid benefits, like getting services you don't need, also may cause you to receive a fine or go to jail.

Other Examples of using your TennCare Medicaid benefits incorrectly:

- lying or giving misleading information to get TennCare Medicaid;
- loaning or selling your TennCare card to anyone;


- getting services you don't need;
- changing your TennCare card from the way it looked when you got it;
- using your TennCare card to pay for forged or changed prescriptions;
- not reporting a stolen card.

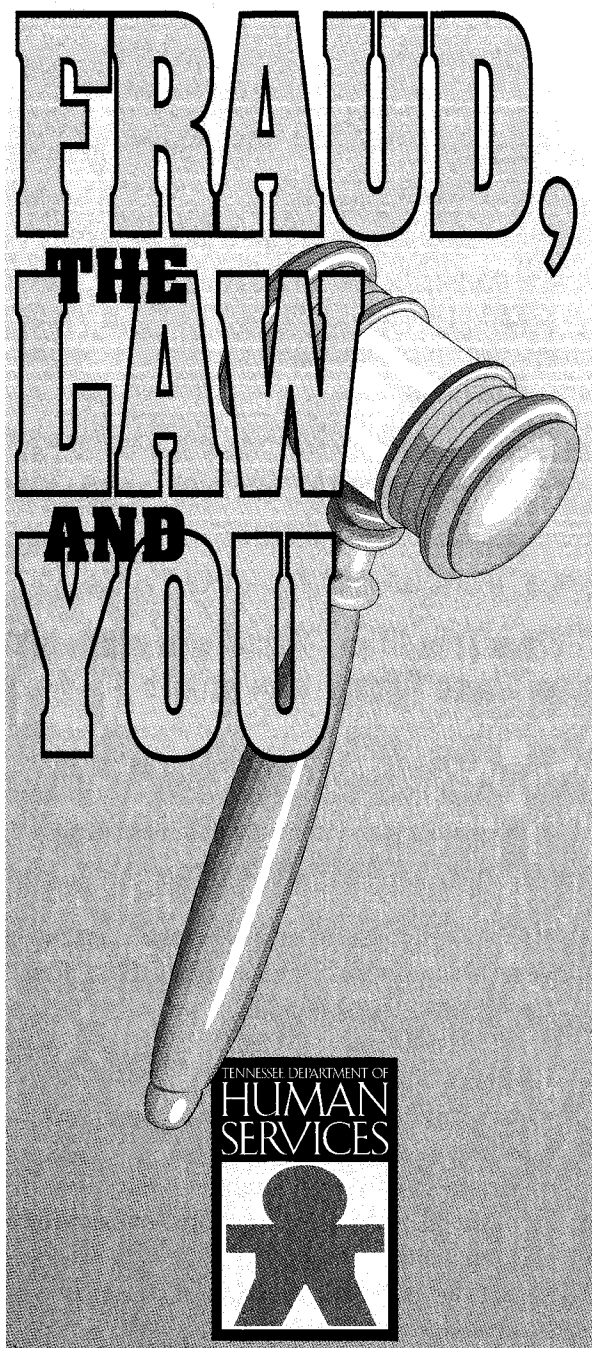
Certain types of fraud which you may observe and should report are:

- providers of medical services performing unnecessary work;
- providers of medical services requesting payment from TennCare Medicaid enrollees if TennCare Medicaid covers that service and the enrollee is not required to pay coinsurance or deductibles.

What if you know someone is breaking program rules or using benefits they shouldn't? Report it to the Tennessee Department of Human Services or the Office of Inspector General. Call the TennCare Medicaid Fraud and Abuse hotline for free at **1-800-433-3982**.

The Department of Human Services is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the Department of Human Services, Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action - Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, 400 Deaderick Street, Citizens Plaza Building, 3rd Floor, Nashville, TN 37243-1403, (615)313-5570, or V/TTY(615)532-8569 for more information.

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FRAUD, THE LAW AND YOU

Families First, TennCare Medicaid or Food Stamp Recipients

As an applicant or recipient of Families First, TennCare Medicaid or Food Stamps, you must give complete and correct information to the Department of Human Services (DHS).

You must also report any important changes in your circumstances to your local DHS Office. Important changes include:

- your income or expenses;
 - property you own;
 - where you live;
 - members of your household (who move in or out of your home or go somewhere for a long visit);
 - marriages, births, divorces or deaths of household members.
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It is against state and federal laws for you to give false information or to withhold information on purpose in order to get aid. Under these laws, the Department of Human Services can take you to court for an intentional violation.

If DHS gives you more benefits than you are eligible for, federal laws require DHS to get back the money from you. Anyone who is convicted of breaking program rules, or federal or state laws may be fined, or go to jail or both. AND the person must pay back the money he owes to DHS for getting too many benefits. Breaking the program rules may also cause you to not qualify for food stamps and Families First.

Your case workers can obtain information on all wages, unemployment, and federal benefits, such as Social Security that you receive. If you fail to tell us about this money, the excess amount of benefits you receive can cause you to be prosecuted in a court of law.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services, TennCare, and the Office of Inspector General are working hard to prevent, detect and prosecute abusers of Families First, TennCare or food stamps.

Any information found to be inaccurate can be considered a violation of program rules.

Any member of a household who is found guilty of **Families First** violations will be:

- disqualified for 6 months for the first offense;
 - disqualified for 12 months for the second offense;
 - permanently disqualified for the third offense.
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Examples of Families First Violations:

- willfully giving false information;
- holding back information;
- hiding information;
- doing anything meant to hide, hold back, mislead or misrepresent facts so you can get, keep, get more, or keep from getting less cash assistance.

If you get cash assistance in two states at the same time, you may be disqualified for 10 years.

If you fail to give truthful and/or complete information, and as a result, get a check for your spouse, dependent children or yourself when you should not, you could be prosecuted for a felony. This could result in a possible penalty of up to 10 years in prison. You also could be prosecuted for perjury.

Any member of a household who is found guilty of **Food Stamp** violations will be:

- disqualified for 12 months the first time;
- disqualified for 24 months the second time;
- disqualified permanently the third time.

If you lie about who you are and where you live in order to get food stamps in more than one case at the same time, you cannot get food stamps for 10 years.

In addition, individuals found guilty of any of these violations could be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned up to 5 years, or both. They also
