

Important notice

Important notice: If you need help reading this notice, contact your worker

Aviso importante: si necesita ayuda para leer este aviso, comuníquese con su trabajador(a) de casos

إخطار هام. إذا احتجت إلى مساعدة في قراءة الإخطار خاطب مسؤول ملفك.

重要通告 如需帮助阅读此通告, 请与您的个案负责人接洽。

Avis important: Si vous avez besoin d'assistance pour lire cet avis, veuillez contacter votre travailleur.

Avi enpòtan. Si w bezwen èd pou li avi sa a, antre an kontak ak travayè w la.

Avviso importante: Se occorre aiuto per leggere questo avviso, rivolgersi al proprio operatore.

중요 통자: 이 통자서를 읽는 데 도움이 필요하시면 담당 직원에게 연락하십시오.

Важная информация. Если при чтении этого извещения у вас возникнут трудности, обратитесь к сотруднику, ведущему ваше дело.

Thông báo quan trọng: Nếu quý vị cần giúp đọc thông báo này, liên lạc với cán sự xã hội của quý vị.

א וויכטיגע מעלדונג: אויב איר דארפט הילף צו ליינען די מעלדונג, רופט אייער ארבעטער.

NAME:	ADDRESS:	CASE NUMBER:
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- Responsibility To Report Changes – See enclosed LDSS-3151: “SNAP Change Report Form” for information on when to report changes.

CONFERENCE AND FAIR HEARING SECTION – DO YOU THINK WE ARE WRONG?

If you think our decision is wrong, you can ask for a review of our decision. We will correct our mistakes. You can do both 1 and 2:

1. Ask for a meeting (conference) with one of our supervisors;
2. Ask for a State fair hearing with a State hearing officer.

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) policy issuances and manuals are posted on the OTDA website at otda.ny.gov/legal. These issuances and manuals are available to you or your representative to determine whether a fair hearing should be requested or to prepare for a fair hearing. In addition, upon request to your local social services district, specific OTDA policy issuances and manuals will also be available to assist you or your representative.

1. **CONFERENCE** (informal meeting with us) – If you think our decision was wrong, or if you do not understand our decision, please call us to set up a meeting. To do this, call the conference phone number on the **front** of this notice or write to us at the address on the **front** of this notice. Sometimes this is the fastest way to solve any problem you may have. We encourage you to do this even when you have asked for a fair hearing.

If you only ask for a meeting with us, we will not keep your benefits the same while you appeal. Your benefits will stay the same only if you ask for a State fair hearing. (See Keeping Your Benefits The Same).

2. **STATE FAIR HEARING** – You have **90** days from the date of this notice to ask for a fair hearing.

If this notice is telling you that you got too much in SNAP benefits and that you must pay them back and you do not agree, you **MUST** call for a fair hearing within 90 days of the date of this notice. If you do not call for a fair hearing within 90 days of the date of this notice, you cannot claim in the future that the agency’s decision that you owe the debt was wrong.

KEEPING YOUR BENEFITS THE SAME: We will not change your SNAP benefits if you ask for a fair hearing before the effective date stated in this notice. However, if you lose the fair hearing, you will have to pay back any benefits you got, but should not have gotten, while you were waiting for the decision. If you do not want your benefits to stay the same until the decision is issued, you must tell the State when you call for a fair hearing or, if you send back this notice, check the box below:

- I do not want to keep my SNAP benefits the same until the fair hearing decision is issued.

HOW TO ASK FOR A FAIR HEARING: You can ask for a fair hearing by:

Mail: Send a copy of the entire notice *completed* to the Office of Administrative Hearings, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, P.O. Box 1930, Albany, New York 12201. Please keep a copy for yourself.

- I want a fair hearing. I do not agree with the agency's action. (You may explain why you disagree below, but you do not have to include a written explanation.) _____

Phone: 800-342-3334 (PLEASE HAVE THIS NOTICE WITH YOU WHEN YOU CALL.)

Fax: Fax a copy of the front and reverse of this notice to: (518) 473-6735.

Walk-In: Bring a copy of this entire notice to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at 14 Boerum Place, Brooklyn, New York.

Online: Complete an online request form at: <http://www.otda.ny.gov/oah/forms.asp>.

If you cannot reach the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance by phone, by fax, by walk-in or online, please write to ask for a fair hearing before the deadline.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A FAIR HEARING: The State will send you a notice that tells you when and where the fair hearing will be held.

At the hearing, you will have a chance to explain why you think our decision is wrong. You can bring a lawyer, a relative, a friend or someone else to help you do this. If you cannot come yourself, you can send someone to represent you. If you are sending someone who is not a lawyer to the hearing instead of you, you must give this person a letter to show the hearing officer that you want this person to represent you at the hearing.

At the hearing, you and your lawyer or other representative will have a chance to explain why we are wrong and a chance to give the hearing officer written papers that explain why we are wrong.

To help you explain at the hearing why you think we are wrong, you should bring any witnesses who can help you. You should also bring any papers you have, such as: pay stubs, leases, receipts, bills, doctor’s statements.

At the hearing, you and your lawyer or other representative can ask questions of witnesses which we bring or which you bring to help your case.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE: If you think you need a lawyer to help you with this problem, you may be able to get a lawyer at no cost to you by contacting your local Legal Aid Society or other legal advocate group. For the names of other lawyers, check your Yellow Pages under “Lawyers”.

ACCESS TO YOUR FILE AND COPIES OF DOCUMENTS: To help you get ready for the hearing, you have a right to look at your case file. If you call, write or fax to us, we will send you free copies of the documents from your files, which we will give to the Hearing Officer at the Fair Hearing. Also, if you call, write or fax to us, we will send you free copies of other specific documents from your files which you think you may need to prepare for your Fair Hearing. To ask for documents or to find out how to look at your file, call (718) 722-5012, or fax (718) 722-5018 or write to **HRA Division of Fair Hearing, 14 Boerum Place, Brooklyn, New York 11201**.

If you want copies of documents from your case file, you should ask for them ahead of time. They will be provided to you within a reasonable time before the date of the hearing. Documents will be mailed to you only if you specifically ask that they be mailed.

INFORMATION: If you want more information about your case, how to ask for a fair hearing, how to see your file, or how to get additional copies of documents, call us at the phone numbers on the **front** of this notice or write to us at the address on the **front** of this notice.