

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

August 29, 2014

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TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners; Temporary Assistance Directors;
EBT Coordinators

FROM: Phyllis Morris, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Restrictions on EBT Cash Transactions at Specified Locations

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT: Temporary Assistance Bureau at 1-800-343-8859, extension 4-9344

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to provide additional information to social service districts (SSDs) about changes in Federal and State law that prohibit specific types of businesses from allowing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) transactions for withdrawal of cash benefits or for purchase of goods and services.

Background

Under the Federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96), states are required to implement policies and practices to prevent Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits from being used in any EBT transaction at liquor stores, casinos, gambling casinos, gaming establishments, and establishments which provide adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state. In New York, Part F of Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2014 explicitly sets forth the authority to impose financial and licensing penalties against establishments that accept an EBT card at a prohibited location. Venues determined to be in violation can be fined and/or may be subject to possible revocation, cancellation or suspension of their license(s). Part F of Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2014 extended the prohibitions to all public assistance accessed via a recipient's EBT card, not only TANF-funded assistance.

Program Implications

Social services districts do not need to take any direct action. The NYS Gaming Commission and the NYS Liquor Authority (SLA) have notified the entities they license about these prohibitions and the resultant penalties. These State licensing agencies will also monitor compliance and determine whether to impose penalties. OTDA will conduct periodic targeted reviews of EBT transactions to monitor retailer compliance with the requirements, and will provide the licensing agencies with data on suspect transactions. OTDA identified establishments that potentially provide adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state, and has sent such venues a

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notice of the requirements and the penalties for non-compliance. OTDA's letter also afforded these entities the opportunity to inform New York State if OTDA has incorrectly identified their business.

OTDA is in the process of issuing the attached notice to all current public assistance recipients explaining that prohibited venues are not allowed to accept EBT cards on their premises. OTDA is also in the process of revising client handbooks to inform public assistance applicants and recipients of these restrictions.

Attachment



JUNE 2014

Case No.

Important Message to Recipients of Cash Assistance

Please be advised that certain types of businesses in New York State are not allowed to let you use your cash assistance on your Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to purchase items or to withdraw cash on their premises.

Businesses are not allowed to let you use your EBT card at:

- Liquor stores;
- Wine stores;
- Beer/beverage centers;
- Racetracks;
- Casinos;
- Video lottery facilities;
- Off-track betting facilities;
- Commercial bingo facilities; and
- Places that provide adult oriented entertainment in which performers take off their clothes or perform without clothes.

Businesses that allow you to use your EBT card to purchase items or to withdraw cash at these locations may lose their license or have to pay a fine.

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.

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

重要通告. 如需幫助閱讀此通告, 請與您的個案負責人接洽。

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 통지: 이 통지서를 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.

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



JUNIO 2014

Nº de Caso

Mensaje Importante para los Beneficiarios de Asistencia de Dinero en Efectivo

Favor de tener en cuenta que a ciertos establecimientos en el estado de Nueva York se les prohíbe permitir que el cliente use el subsidio de dinero en efectivo por medio de la tarjeta de Transferencia Electrónica de Beneficios (EBT), para comprar artículos o retirar dinero en efectivo.

No puede utilizar la tarjeta EBT en:

- Licorerías
- Bodegas de vino
- Centros de dispensas de cerveza / licor
- Centros de apuestas
- Casinos
- Centros de video lotería
- Instalaciones de apuestas fuera del hipódromo
- Instalaciones de juegos comerciales de bingo; y
- Establecimientos que ofrecen entretenimiento para adultos en los cuales los actores se quitan la ropa o dan el espectáculo al desnudo.

Los establecimientos que permiten que usted use su tarjeta EBT para comprar artículos o retirar dinero en efectivo, corren el riesgo de perder la licencia o pagar una multa.

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