

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

➤ **Having an Interview**

Sign the form, answer the questions, and send it to your Food and Nutrition Services worker. 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. 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.

➤ **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 in your case to check the information you give us such as checking for wages with the Employment Security Commission (ESC). 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.

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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.

➤ **Citizenship**

By signing this form, you affirm that you and everyone 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 household member with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

➤ **Nondiscrimination Statement**

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write 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."

➤ **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, ask your caseworker for a voter registration form, and if you need help, to assist you in completing the form.