



Nathan Deal, Governor

Clyde L. Reese, III, Esq., Commissioner

Georgia Department of Human Services • Family & Children Services • Ron Scroggy, Division Director  
Two Peachtree Street, NW • Suite 19-490 • Atlanta, GA 30303 • 404-651-8409 • 404-657-5105

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All DFCS Staff

**FROM:** Ron Scroggy, Division Director

**RE:** Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) Usage

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updates regarding appropriate use of TANF funds and Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) purchases.

### **Discussion:**

Section 4004 of The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 established spending policies for assistance under state TANF programs effective July 1, 2012.

In Georgia, these policies were incorporated into TANF manual transmittal 27 and are stated as follows:

TANF cash assistance funds or the TANF EBT transactions may be used to purchase food or non-food items, such as diapers, soap, clothing, deodorant, gasoline, etc.

It is strictly prohibited to use the cash assistance funds or TANF EBT card to withdraw cash or perform transactions at casinos, poker rooms, adult entertainment business, bail bonds, night clubs/salons/taverns, bingo halls, race tracks, gun/ammunition stores, cruise ships, psychic readers, smoking shops, tattoo/piercing shops, and spa/massage salons. Use of cash assistance funds or the TANF EBT transactions performed at these establishments or businesses will constitute an intentional program violation-fraud on the part of the benefit recipient.

Reports of fraudulent use of benefits can be reported to the DHS Office of Inspector General via the DHS Contact Center at 1-877-423-4746, via email at [inspectorgeneralhotline@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:inspectorgeneralhotline@dhr.state.ga.us), or via the OIG online reporting form at <http://dhs.georgia.gov/dhs-oig-incident-form>.