



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance

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Online Guide Transmittal 2024-45
August 15, 2024

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Local Implementation and Special Populations

Re: **SNAP: Clarification of Drug Felon Policy**

Overview

Clients who are found to be convicted of a drug felony under Federal or State law for the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance (felony drug conviction) on or after August 22, 1996, are still able to apply for and receive SNAP benefits if otherwise eligible. Massachusetts has opted out of invoking a permanent ban for these clients. It is important that staff are made aware that if a client has been convicted of a drug felony, these clients are not ineligible or banned from receiving SNAP.

However, if it is determined that a client has been convicted of trading (buying or selling) SNAP benefits for drugs, this client will be ineligible for SNAP for two years for the first finding and permanently disqualified from SNAP for the second finding. The Fraud Investigation and Data Match (FIDM) Unit will interview these clients and make a determination if there is sufficient evidence to disqualify them from SNAP. Local office staff are not to make a determination of ineligibility due to a reported conviction of trading SNAP benefits.

Purpose

This Online Guide transmittal clarifies the difference between the Department's policy on drug felons versus those convicted of trading SNAP for drugs.

**Revised Online
Guide Page**

Book: SNAP
Chapter: Limitations on Program Eligibility
Page: Case Manager Responsibilities

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to [DTA.Procedural Issues](#).

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
