

Minnesota Department of Human Services

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**New Penalties for Welfare Fraud
Information on Administrative Fraud Disqualification Hearings**

Fraud Hearings: A county can ask for a hearing with a state official if it thinks you are using fraud to get MFIP or food stamps.

What will happen at the hearing: At the hearing, the county will tell why it thinks you should not be getting the MFIP or food stamps that you are receiving and give proof. You will be able to tell why you think this is not true and give proof.

Penalties: If the hearing decision is that you did use fraud to get MFIP or food stamps, the county will take you off that program. Only the person who used fraud is taken off the program.

- ☛ If it is your first offense, you can not get MFIP or food stamps for 12 months.
- ☛ If it is your second offense, you can not get MFIP or food stamps for 24 months.
- ☛ If you have a third offense, you can never get MFIP or food stamps again.

These penalties apply to both hearing decisions and court convictions.

Fraud charges in court: These hearings are not court hearings. The county can also charge you with fraud in court, even if it uses a disqualification hearing.