

3 Things You Need To Know About Photo EBT Cards

Massachusetts state law now requires that certain EBT card holders be issued Photo EBT Cards with their picture. If you receive SNAP or cash benefits, you may get a letter from DTA about the new photo EBT card.

1. About half of SNAP households will have a photo EBT card.

Under state law, households will get a photo-less EBT card when the head of household is:

- Age 60 or older,
- Disabled or blind,
- Under age 19,
- A victim of domestic violence, or
- You have a sincere religious objection to a photo.

If you get a DTA letter about the photo EBT card, but you meet one of the above categories, call your DTA worker. You should be **exempt** from having a photo on your EBT card, unless you want one.

2. Every SNAP household member has the right to use the EBT card.ⁱ

Stores cannot refuse to accept the EBT card from household members, such as spouses or older children. This is true even if their name or photo is not on the card. In addition, caregivers you authorize can also use your EBT card to food shop for you.

Just like a debit card, your PIN is what keeps your benefits safe and is your electronic signature. If the proper PIN is used, the shopper should be able to use the card.

3. Stores cannot treat SNAP recipients differently from other shoppers.^{*}

A store clerk cannot ask to see your EBT photo card unless they routinely ask **everyone** using credit or debit cards to show a photo ID. Also, stores that accept EBT cards cannot set up “SNAP-only” checkout lines or discriminate against SNAP households.

If a household member is not allowed to use the EBT card, or if you are being hassled or treated different from others shoppers, call your local Legal Services office. Go to www.masslegalhelp.org for more information.

^{*}Federal rules protect the right of all authorized members to use the EBT card and to not be discriminated against, under the following Code of Federal Regulations: 7 CFR 274.7(A), 7 CFR 274.8(b)(5)(iv), 7 CFR. 278.2(b)