



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## ***CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS ADVISED TO PROTECT SNAP AND CASH BENEFITS FROM SCAMS***

**HARTFORD** – The CT Department of Social Services (DSS) today warned Connecticut residents who receive SNAP and/or Cash EBT benefits to protect their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards from skimming scams that have impacted some retail and grocery stores around Connecticut. These scams are aimed at obtaining credit, debit and EBT card information and Personal Identification Numbers (PINs). [Skimming](#) is the use of an electronic device to steal card information from a card reader and create a fake card to steal money or benefits.

As a precaution, DSS strongly recommends that clients change the PIN for their EBT cards immediately, and before each scheduled benefit deposit. Clients do not need to receive a new card to safely access their benefits. Clients can call 1-888-328-2666 and follow the prompts to change their PIN or cancel and replace their EBT card.

DSS has also received reports of a phishing scam where individuals are receiving scam text messages regarding their DSS benefits. The text message directs individuals to call a number where they are asked to provide their EBT card number and PIN. These messages are not coming from DSS. DSS does not currently send messages to clients via text message.

People should never provide their personal information, EBT card number or PIN over the phone to unidentified callers. If any DSS client believes they may have fallen victim to a skimming or phishing scam, they should cancel their EBT card or change the PIN immediately by calling 1-888-328-2666, notify the DSS Benefit Center at 1-855-626-6632, and file a report with their local police department.

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