



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Joron Moore-Planter
Phone: (804) 726-7934
E-mail: joron.moore@dss.virginia.gov

New Restrictions for TANF Electronic Benefits Effective July 1

RICHMOND, Va. (June 28, 2013) – The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) announces that legislation approved during the Virginia General Assembly’s 2013 regular session adds new restrictions relating to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) electronic transactions.

Effective July 1, the *Code of Virginia section §63.2-621* is amended to restrict the use of TANF electronic benefit cards at certain retail establishments and for the purchase of certain products.

Individuals receiving TANF may not use their TANF cards:

- To purchase lottery tickets, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or sexually explicit materials; or
- In ABC stores, tattoo or body-piercing businesses, businesses that provide adult-oriented entertainment in which performers appear at least partially nude, or in places in which wagering or gaming, such as bingo, is conducted.

Virginia's TANF program emphasizes personal responsibility and provides eligible families with a monthly cash payment to meet their basic needs. Participants are expected to engage in work activities such as job search, job skills training, work experience, job readiness training unless they have a condition which precludes their participation in a work activity

For questions or more information, citizens can contact their local department of social services or visit: www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/tanf.

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****Note: The contact for media is at 804-726-7934 or joron.moore@dss.virginia.gov. The general public should contact their local department of social services.***