



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

October 23, 2023

Mansoor Ansari, J.D., LL.M.
Nexus Tax Defense, Ansari Tax Law Firm LLC
2650 Holcomb Bridge Road
Suite 110
Alpharetta, GA 30022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Dear Sir or Madam:

Consideration has been given to the information and evidence available to us relating to our letter of charges dated July 19, 2023, and to your replies of July 26, 2023 and July 27, 2023. We find that the violations cited in our charge letter occurred at your firm.

We have determined that the assessment of a hardship Civil Money Penalty (CMP) of \$2,508.00 in lieu of a 6 months period of disqualification is the appropriate penalty for these violations. This is in accordance with Section 278.6(f)(1) of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations. Violations of SNAP regulations which involved Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits also violate corresponding P-EBT regulations at 7 CFR part 284. Please see the enclosure for a list of the P-EBT and SNAP regulations that correspond to each other.

We have assessed this CMP because your firm is selling a substantial variety of staple food items and the firm's disqualification would cause hardship to SNAP households.

Your firm shall have 15 calendar days from receipt of this letter in which to pay the \$2,508.00 CMP or to establish an installment plan. If you wish to set up installment payments, you must contact the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Retailer Repayment Team, Financial Management, Accounting Division (703) 605-0483 or fn-retailerrepayment@usda.gov.

Please submit your payment online at <https://pay.gov>. Click on Find an Agency at the top of the page. Under letter "A", search for and select Agriculture (USDA): Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Please use Standard Form 1114 - Bills for Collection to make your payment using a bank account, or credit or debit card. If you are unable to pay online, contact the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Retailer Repayment Team, Financial Management, Accounting Division for additional instructions.

Failure to pay the CMP will result in your disqualification for a period of 6 months. This disqualification would be effective on the 15th calendar day following your receipt of this letter. If you are disqualified, your Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) processor will be advised to disable your EBT connection. If you accept EBT benefits after the effective date of disqualification, you will be subject to a severe monetary fine, per Section 278.6(m) of the SNAP regulations, and possible prosecution under applicable laws.

This determination will be final unless you submit a written request for review to the Chief, Administrative Review Branch, USDA, FNS, 1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or by email to SM.FN.SNAP-ARB@usda.gov. This request must include the FNS number assigned to your store and a phone number and email address for you to facilitate communications regarding the status of your review. Your request for review must be received by email or postmarked by midnight of the 10th calendar day after you receive this letter in order to be considered timely. If you are responding by mail and the 10th calendar day of the period for requesting review falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal (Federal) holiday, as specified in Section 279.2(c) of the SNAP regulations, a request for review will be timely if it is postmarked the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal (Federal) holiday. The rules governing your review rights are contained in Section 278.6(n) and Part 279 of the SNAP regulations. If someone (attorney, accountant, etc.) will be representing you in the review process, a written statement signed by you naming this individual as your representative should be included with your request along with a phone number and email address for them. Failure to include this signed statement will delay processing your request.

If a timely request for review is made, no payment should be sent until the review officer has made a decision on your request. Otherwise, if payment is not received within 30 calendar days, interest will be charged on the unpaid balance, and will accrue from the date of this bill.

This determination shall not preclude the Department of Agriculture or any other agency or department of the United States from taking further action to collect any claim determined under SNAP regulations or under any other pertinent statutes or regulations, nor shall this determination preclude prosecution under any applicable laws.

If you are an authorized vendor under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), you may be disqualified from the WIC Program as a result of your disqualification from the SNAP. In accordance with current law governing both the SNAP and the WIC Program, such a WIC Program disqualification is not subject to administrative or judicial review under the WIC Program. A Civil Money Penalty from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program may also result in a WIC Program disqualification, but such a disqualification would be subject to administrative and/or judicial review.

In the event that you sell or transfer ownership of your store prior to the end of your disqualification period, you will be subject to and liable for a CMP as provided by SNAP regulations Sections 278.6(f)(2), (3), and (4). The amount of this sale or transfer CMP will be calculated based on SNAP regulations at 278.6(g).

We may disclose information to the public when a retailer has been disqualified or otherwise sanctioned for violations after the time for any appeals has expired. This information is limited to the name and address of the store, the owner(s)/officer(s) names and information about the sanction itself.

Current SNAP and P-EBT regulations are available online, at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer/training>.

If you have questions, please call Bruce Longson at (312) 489-9268.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sanela Ocanovic".

Sanela Ocanovic
Section Chief, Retailer Operations Division
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure