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EBT Card Transactions: Prohibited Locations and Purchases

As a reminder, the Federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Section 4004) and Missouri Senate Bill 251 were enacted to ensure that TANF funds are used for their intended purpose, to provide cash assistance to indigent families with dependent children. Senate Bill 251, which took effect August 28, 2013, also prohibits the sale of alcohol beverages, tobacco products, or lottery tickets and imposes fines on retailers who knowingly accept TANF benefits for the purchase of inappropriate items. For more retailer information about EBT acceptance and to download prohibited purchase/location posters to display in your establishment, visit <http://dss.mo.gov/fsd/fstamp/ebt/retailer.htm>

To assist merchants in compliance with the law, the use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) transactions at ATMs or Point of Sale (POS) terminals are being blocked at liquor stores, casinos, gambling casinos or gaming establishments, retail establishments that provide adult-oriented entertainment, or in places primarily marketed to adults 18 or over and not in the best interest of the child or household. Temporary Assistance transaction blocking in Missouri is based on the Merchant Category Code (MCC), a four-digit number that describes the type of business, and for businesses that provide multiple good and services it reflects the greater percentage of the business. The MCC is assigned by the bank or financial institution that processed the business' application to start accepting VISA, MasterCard, American Express, or other bankcard payments. Be aware that the following MCC codes are blocked: 5813, 5921, 5993, 7273, and 7297.

TANF was established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and is administered by the Department of Social Services.

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RELAY MISSOURI

FOR HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRED

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