

NEBRASKA ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (EBT) CARD VIOLATIONS

PREAMBLE:

The State of Nebraska issues Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to distribute Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamp Program) to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) clients. The cards are similar to a debit card in appearance and function.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) that officers who witness Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card violations, such as illegal possession and/or use of an EBT card, may take enforcement action under Nebraska Revised Statutes (NRS) §[68-1017](#) or [68-1017.01](#).

I. Third-Party Complaints

- A. Third-party complaints of EBT card violations will be documented in an OPD Information Report ([OPD Form 42](#)).
- B. A copy of the completed report will be forwarded to OPD Fraud Investigations Squad.
 - 1. The Fraud Investigations Squad will forward copies of reports to the DHHS, as needed.

II. Illegal Use and/or Possession of EBT Cards

- A. Officers may call the Nebraska DHHS in Omaha at 402-595-1258 Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, to verify that a person is the authorized user/beneficiary of an EBT card when necessary for investigatory purposes.
- B. Officers who discover illegal use or possession of EBT cards in arrest or investigatory situations will cite and/or book the suspect(s) as applicable to the offense.
- C. Officers will book the EBT card(s) into the OPD Evidence and Property Unit as evidence, per the OPD "[Evidence and Property Handling](#)" policy.

REFERENCES:

I. Laws

- A. NRS §[68-1017](#) and [68-1017.01](#) are referenced in this policy.

II. Previous OPD Orders

- A. Previous General Orders: #112-89 and 27-15.

III. Other

- A. PPM Monthly Updates: #07-2019 and 04-2024.