

SENIOR CITIZEN FRAUD ALERT

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ("SNAP") **FRAUD ALERT FOR MIDDLESEX COUNTY RESIDENTS**

SNAP clients warned to beware of solicitations made seeking confidential financial information from phony, third party sources.

The USDA has warned of possible SNAP Phishing Scams. The first is a scam using texting to obtain an applicant's personal information. The text might say that the person was chosen to receive SNAP and ask for their Social Security Number, Date of Birth, etc. in order to process their application. We have also been advised of a scam involving a consulting company. The company will send a letter to an applicant telling them that they can assist them with their recent SNAP application and they request personal information from the client.

If you believe that you are being scammed and have been the victim of identity theft, you need to report the information to the police. You can also file a consumer complaint online with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://www.ftc.gov>. FTC is the federal agency responsible for protecting consumers from identity theft scams. To stay on top of potential scams, you can visit USDA's SNAP scam alert webpage at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/scam-alerts>.

The Middlesex County Board of Social Services received a complaint from a Middlesex County resident and SNAP recipient against **FSP Consulting**, alleging among other things, that the resident was solicited by this company and asked in the course of this solicitation to provide confidential information such as bank account numbers ([Click here for an example](#)).

These kinds of scams are often designed to take advantage of vulnerable residents, such as those wishing to cooperate as fully as possible in order to receive needed benefits for their families. While clients may not have significant financial assets, confidential information such as bank account numbers, social security numbers and other identifying information can be used to create fake identities used to scam others. This kind of information should always be protected.

If you need additional assistance in this matter you may contact **Middlesex County Board of Social Services Investigative Department** at 732-745-3793 or 732-745-4357, or by emailing **FRAUDALERT@MID-BOSS.COM**.