

Program Integrity Overview

Mission Statement:

The Lee County Department of Social Services Program Integrity Unit strives daily to stop welfare fraud before it starts and to make sure every citizen that is receiving benefits through the agency is eligible to receive them.

Purpose:

Investigate all referrals for clients receiving: Food and Nutrition Benefits, Work First Family Assistance, Medicaid, Child Care Subsidy, and/or Energy Assistance to ensure the client was eligible to receive the benefits.

Once the investigation is completed, if the agency determines there is an overpayments of benefits to the client, an overpayment is established. Collection procedures are then put in place to pursue collection of benefits from the client by means of recoupment, monthly payments, tax interception, and/or NC Education Lottery Intercept. Payments are arranged based on a 36 month repayment period. Individuals not in compliance with monthly payment arrangements are subject to tax and lottery intercept.

Claims are established as the following based on Program Policy: Agency Errors, Inadvertent House Hold Errors or Intentional Program Violations. Intentional Program Violations are referred to the local District Attorney and/or set up for an Administrative Disqualification Hearing based on the evidence in the case and according to the Lee County's Program Integrity Plan. Individuals committing fraud with willful intent can be subjected to criminal prosecution as well as penalized from receiving benefits for themselves.