

SNAP Program Fraud and Abuse Processes

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Georgia Department of Human Services

Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- **Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.**
- **Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.**
- **Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.**
- **Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.**

Overview of Fraud and Abuse

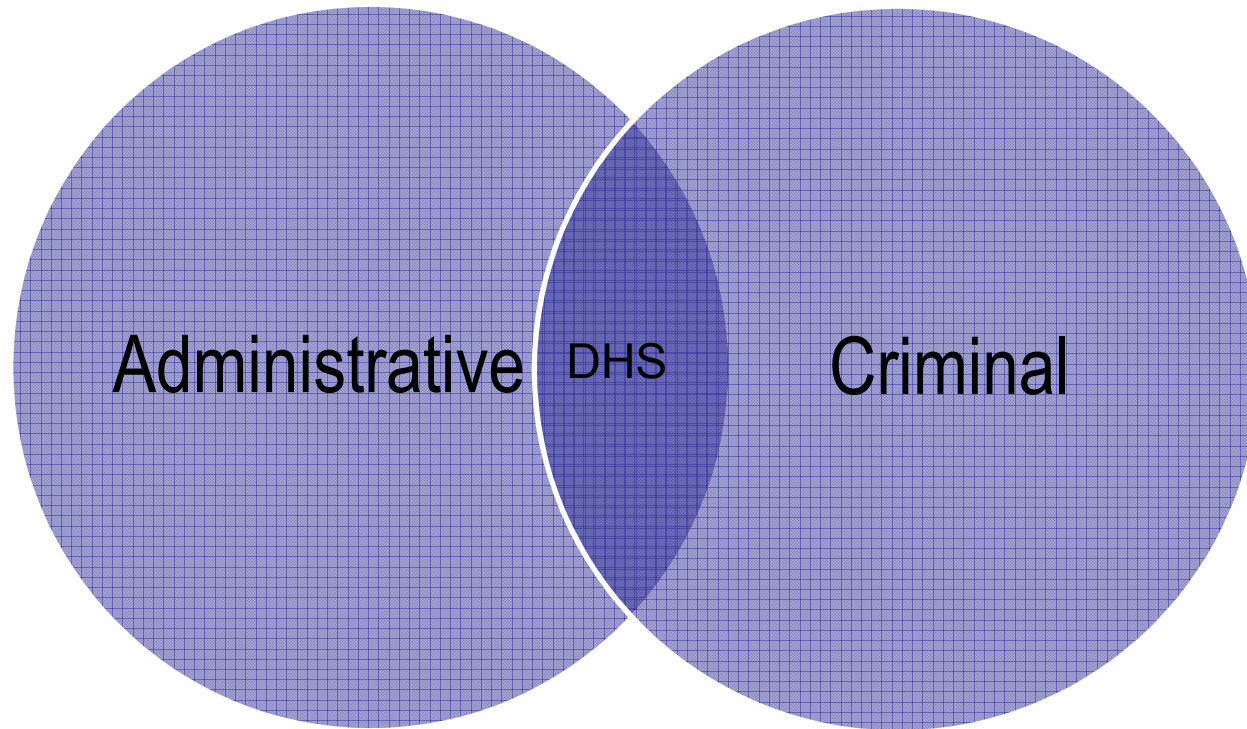
- Who is involved?
 - **USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS):** Federal oversight
 - **Department of Human Services:** State agency charged with administration of federal benefits programs
 - **DFCS:** Division of DHS which administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Food Stamp Program)
 - **DHS Office of Inspector General**

Role of OIG

- **Office of Inspector General (OIG)**
 - Investigates allegations of fraud and abuse
 - Establishes Intentional Program Violation (IPV) Claims
 - Refers cases for adjudication

Prior IPV Adjudication Process

- Two pathways for adjudicating cases:
 - **Civil** : Administrative adjudication through the Office of State Administrative Hearings (OSAH)
 - **Criminal**: Referral of cases to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia (PAC) for prosecution
 - FNS issued items for response regarding the relationship between DHS and PAC, specifically requesting defined roles of legal and administrative personnel.
 - DHS reviewed and revised the process



Prior IPV Process

Current Process

- **All Cases:**
 - Civil: Administrative adjudication through OSAH.
- **Some Cases:**
 - Criminal: DHS is currently working with the Attorney General's (AG) office to develop threshold criteria for the criminal prosecution of cases following the administrative adjudication. One criterion is expected to be an aggregate fraud total in excess of \$12,500.



Administrative

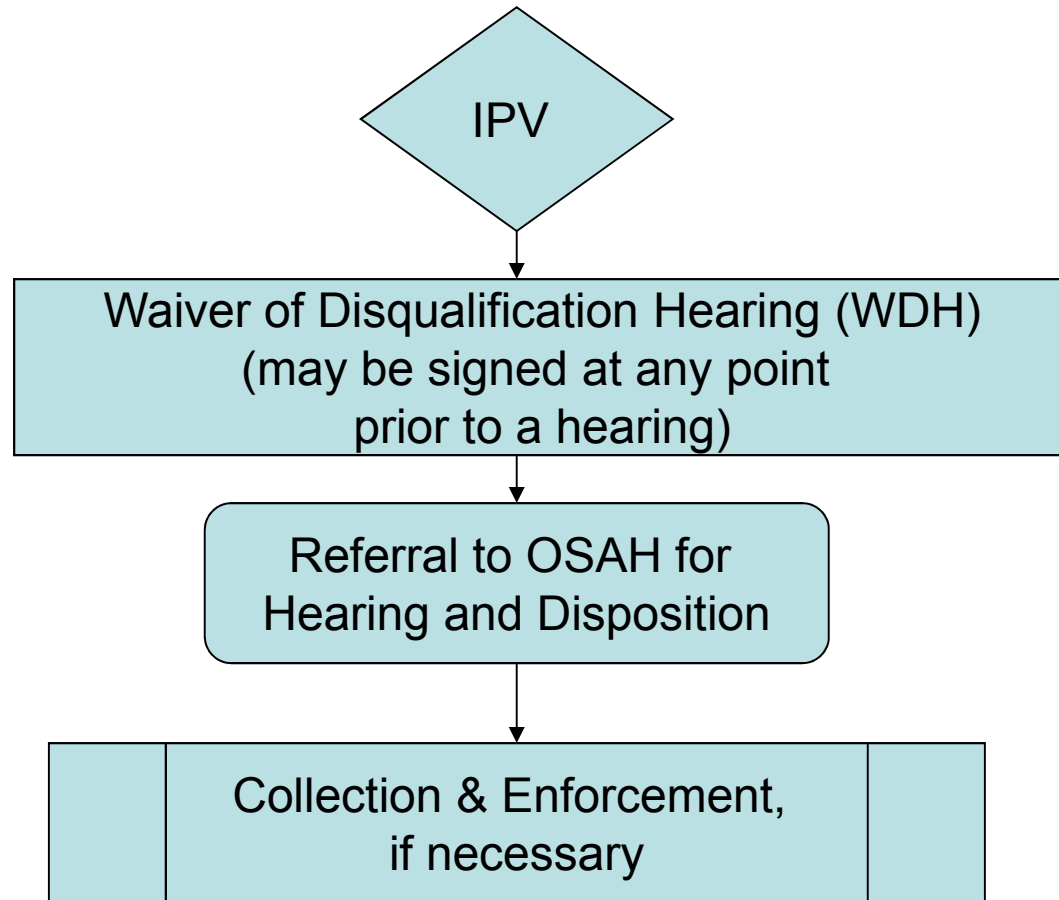
Criminal

Current Process separates
Administrative and Criminal
tracks

IPV Process: OSAH Hearing

- OSAH provides a civil remedy for benefits recipients
- OSAH disposes of IPV cases
- Enables Collection and Enforcement activities to commence to recoup benefits obtained as the result of fraudulent activity

Administrative Hearing Process



IPV Process: Criminal Prosecution

- Criminal Prosecution of IPV cases
 - Some cases warrant criminal prosecution.
 - Cases with an aggregate fraud total in excess of \$12,500 will be routed through the administrative process, then may be referred for criminal prosecution
 - DHS intends to involve the AG's office in the referrals of these cases

Questions