



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Office of MUI/Registry Unit

John R. Kasich, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

Health & Safety Alert #50-03-12

Reward Cards

The purpose of this alert is to notify all providers, county boards, individuals and their families about the practice of employees using their personal reward cards when purchasing groceries and other items for individuals, resulting in discounted gas, personal benefits or other items for the employee.

Reward cards have evolved from earning small discounts towards gas or groceries to in some cases receiving money back on purchases or certificates towards future purchases. Employees should not use their personal rewards card for individual's purchase when they would gain a personal benefit. When an employee uses an individual or an individual's resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain, it may be considered improper and may meet the definition of Exploitation as defined in the MUI Rule (O.A.C. 5123:2-17-02).

For example, if an employee uses their influence to have an individual do their weekly shopping at Kmart so that they can use their Kmart reward card (which earns them a gift certificate for future purchases based on a percentage of purchases made), this could be considered exploitation because the employee is personally benefitting from the individual.

It is important that individuals have the opportunity to choose where they want to shop and make these choices independently. Employees should

assist individuals in signing up for loyalty cards when appropriate. It is recommended that agencies have a policy/procedure that addresses the use of employee personal reward cards for individual's purchases.

This alert has been created in an effort to promote awareness of this situation and avoid any future negative outcomes related to this issue/

For questions or comments regarding the above Alert, please contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.

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