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Five Los Angeles Residents Arrested for Conducting EBT Fraud in Kern County

(Bakersfield) – On July 2, 2025, investigators from the Kern County District Attorney’s Office, California Department of Social Services EBT Fraud and Theft Detection Unit, and the Fresno Police Department executed a search warrant at a residence in Fresno. The operation targeted an organized crime ring involved in skimming EBT card information and illegally withdrawing stolen funds from multiple areas, including Kern County.

During the raid, Investigators arrested three adults—41-year-old Camelia Ionia, 44-year-old Vasile Barbu, 49-year-old Briceag Ionita—and two juveniles. The Los Angeles residents face multiple charges including grand theft, money laundering, conspiracy, and altering data to commit fraud. Seized evidence included 181 cloned EBT cards, \$42,866 in cash, and several electronic devices used to perpetrate the fraud.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “The District Attorney’s Office is committed to combating EBT fraud, dedicating substantial resources and efforts to this critical issue. These criminal acts target vulnerable families who depend on these benefits for their basic needs. We will not allow this in our community and will continue to pursue and hold accountable those who engage in these crimes.”



The Department of Human Services suggests the following precautions to keep your card safe:

- Report a theft to DHS [in person](#), online through users’ [BenefitsCal.com](#) account, or through the EBT helpline at 877-328-9677. There are several factors that are taken into consideration, based

on the regulations regarding whether the replacement can be made, but if eligible, a replacement card will be issued to the customer within 10 business days. DHS is working through every request as expeditiously as possible.

- Download and use the ebtEDGE Mobile Application as a method to better manage benefits and reset your pin number frequently.