



Massachusetts Package Stores Association, Inc.

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MEMBER & CONSUMER ALERT

There has been a noticeable rise in fraudulent credit card charges at stores across the state. Credit (and debit) card fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S. According to Massachusetts law, [credit card fraud](#) encompasses a number of different offenses involving the illegal use of credit cards by a defendant for some sort of monetary gain.

Massachusetts laws explicitly prohibit the following:

1. Knowingly making false statements in order to obtain a credit card,
2. Stealing a credit card with the intent to use or sell the card,
3. Receiving a credit card that the defendant knows has been lost or stolen and keeping the credit card with the intent to sell or use the card,
4. Selling or buying a credit card without being authorized to do so,
5. Keeping and using a credit card that was mistakenly delivered to the wrong address or person,
6. Falsely making a fraudulent credit card,
7. Falsely using a credit card without the owner's permission,
8. Using a credit card in violation of the previous conditions in order to obtain money, goods or services of more than \$250.

ANY SUSPECTED FRAUD SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

If you suspect fraud, your store was likely not the only retail establishment targeted by alleged scammers. It is encouraged that you promptly report alleged fraud supported with any evidence on hand to a law enforcement agency. In addition to reporting fraud to local law enforcement, a Massachusetts' victim can also report credit card fraud theft to the [Attorney General Consumer Hotline](#), (617) 727-8400 or a [local law enforcement agency](#) .