



How Do I Get a Half-Fare MetroCard for People with Mental Disabilities?

WHAT IS THIS SPECIAL METROCARD?

The Half-Fare Fairness Law forced the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to add **people with serious mental illness who are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits** to its Half-Fare MetroCard program for people with disabilities. Eligible people can now get half-fare rates on all subways, local buses, express buses during non-rush hours, and various other buses and railroads, including the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North.

You must fill out an **application form** for the Half-Fare MetroCard and file it with the MTA. To get a copy of the form, **call the MTA Reduced-Fare Line at (718) 243-4999, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, and ask that the application for an "MTA Reduced-Fare MetroCard for People with Disabilities" be sent to you. **If you are hearing impaired, call TTY/TDD, (718) 596-8273, Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.**, and on weekends, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also get the form on the web: <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/nyct/fare/rfindex.htm>.

WHAT DOES THE APPLICATION FORM REQUIRE?

The application form requires you to authorize the release of any **records or information from your Social Security Administration (SSA) files**, for the purpose of verifying that you receive SSI due to a serious mental illness. You must also submit a 2" x 1" (passport type) **photograph** of yourself and you must **print** your name on the back of the picture as well.

The application form comes with detailed instructions. Read these instructions and the application form itself **VERY, VERY CAREFULLY**. If you have any questions or concerns about what you are required to authorize or to produce or if you need more information about the program or its requirements, call **MFY's Mental Health Law Project at (212) 417-3830**.

After you have filled out the application form and pulled together all of the necessary documentation, you must get the application **notarized** and return it to the MTA. The MTA will then decide if you meet the rules for this reduced-fare benefit.

WHAT IF THE MTA DENIES MY APPLICATION?

If the MTA denies your application, you will need to speak to a lawyer or someone who knows what your rights are. Call **MFY's Mental Health Law Project at (212) 417-3830** to speak to an advocate.