

## **HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION, INC.-ISSUED CREDIT CARDS**

[Note: Although it can be impractical or nearly impossible to not issue Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. credit cards to certain key employees, there is always some risk involved that a card user might abuse the card by using it for unauthorized purposes. This sample policy and form below are meant to illustrate how an employer might try to protect itself and allow at least some possibility for recovery of improper charges on such cards. The main things to remember are that purchases of items or services for personal use can be considered [loans or wage advances](#) to the employee, deductions for which may take an employee below minimum wage under the FLSA; that losses due to [unnecessary or negligent purchases of non-personal items or services](#) may not result in deductions below minimum wage; and that both types of deductions need to be authorized by the employee in writing to be valid under the [Texas Payday Law](#).]

### **Policy Regarding Use of Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.-Issued Credit Cards**

The Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. will issue Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. credit cards to certain employees for use in their jobs; this policy sets out the acceptable and unacceptable uses of such credit cards. Use of Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.-issued credit cards is a privilege, which the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. may withdraw in the event of serious or repeated abuse. Any credit card the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. issues to an employee must be used for business purposes only, in conjunction with the employee's job duties. Employees with such credit cards shall not use them for any non-business, non-essential purpose, i.e., for any personal purchase or any other transaction that is not authorized or needed to carry out their duties. Employees must pay for personal purchases (i.e., transactions for the benefit of anyone or anything other than the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.) with their own funds or personal credit cards. The Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. will not regard expenses for one's own business-related use, such as lodging and meals while on Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.-approved business trips, as personal purchases, as long as such expenses are consistent with the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.'s travel and expense reimbursement policy. If any employee uses a Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. credit card for personal purchases in violation of this policy, the cost of such purchase(s) will be considered an advance of future wages payable to that employee, and will be recovered in full from the employee's next paycheck; any balance remaining will be deducted in full from subsequent paychecks until the wage advance is fully repaid. Such deductions may take the employee's pay below minimum wage for the pay period(s) in question. If an employee uses a Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. credit card for any other type of unauthorized transaction in violation of this policy, i.e., incurs financial liability on the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.'s part that is not within the scope of the employee's duties or the employee's authorization to make business-related purchases, the cost of such purchase(s) or transaction will be the financial responsibility of that employee, and the employee will be expected to reimburse the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. via deductions from pay until the unauthorized amount is fully repaid. Such deductions will be in the amount of the unauthorized purchase(s), but if a deduction for such amount would take the employee below minimum wage for the workweek in question, the deductions will be in two or more equal increments that will not take the employee's pay below minimum wage for any workweek involved. In addition to financial responsibility and liability for wage deductions, any purchases an employee makes with a Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. credit card in violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and possibly including termination of employment, depending upon the severity and repeat nature of the offense.

### **Agreement for Wage Deductions Associated with Improper Use of Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.-Issued Credit Cards**

I, (employee's name), hereby certify that I understand and agree to abide by the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.'s policy regarding use of Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.-issued credit cards, a copy of which I have received, and which has been explained to me. I agree that if I make any personal purchases (i.e., transactions for the benefit of anyone or anything other than the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.) in violation of that policy, the amount of such purchases is an advance of future wages payable to me, that the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. may deduct that amount from my next paycheck, and that if there is a balance remaining after such deduction, the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. may deduct the balance of the wage advance from my future paychecks until the amount is repaid in full. I further agree that if I make any non-personal transactions in violation of the policy in question, i.e., incur financial liability on the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.'s part that is not within the scope of my duties or my authorization to make business-related purchases, I am financially responsible for any such expenses and agree to reimburse the Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. via wage deductions for such amounts until the unauthorized amounts are fully repaid. Such deductions will be in the amount of the unauthorized purchase(s), but if such amount would take my pay below minimum wage for the workweek in question, the deductions will be in two or more equal increments that will not take my pay below minimum wage for any workweek involved.

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Signature of Employee

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Date

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Employee's Name - Printed

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Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. Representative

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Date