



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development  
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The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW 12967-14 C.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S507200 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her recertification for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's recertification for benefits as it contended that Petitioner failed to provide copies of requested necessary documentation, specifically copies of Petitioner's paystubs. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 10, 2014, the Honorable Tiffany M. Williams, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On November 26, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that based upon the credible evidence presented, it was clear that Petitioner had forwarded the requested paystubs by both facsimile and then hand delivery. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ then concluded that the Agency's determination was improper, as "the client should not bear the responsibility where the agency cannot maintain or transmit documents that are delivered to it [by more than one method of delivery]." Ibid. The ALJ directed that Petitioner's SNAP benefits be restored immediately. Ibid.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.12(b), Petitioner's benefits shall be restored back to the date when they were wrongfully withheld.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is REVERSED.

**DEC -5 2014**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director