



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 10700-14 S.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C040566 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's correctness of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, recoupment due to an overissuance. The Agency asserts that Petitioner received more SNAP benefits than permissible as a result of an administrative error in calculating the household composition. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 19, 2014, the Honorable W. Todd Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On October 1, 2014, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record in this matter and I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision, affirming the Agency determination.

SNAP is designed to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well-being of the population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households. See N.J.A.C. 10:87- 1.1(a). In the instance of an overpayment of benefits, the Agency must recoup the overissuance. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20.

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The record in this matter reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits online in February 2014. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner's household at the time of her application consisted of one adult. Ibid. However, the Agency staff incorporated data from her prior welfare application, incorrectly resulting in a household composition of four. Ibid. Accordingly, the household composition error resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits over a several month period for a total of \$1,788.12. See id. at 2-3. The ALJ agreed with the Agency that the overissuance of benefits must be repaid regardless of fault. See id. at 3. I concur with this decision.

Accordingly, based upon the foregoing, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision in this matter and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

**OCT 22 2014**

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director