



State of New Jersey

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Director

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 11564-17 C.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C018287019 (SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's determination of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") overissuance/overpayment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for October 10, 2017, but was adjourned. The case was rescheduled for November 18, 2017, but again adjourned. The matter was heard on January 16, 2018, by the Honorable Leslie Z. Celentano, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), at which time the Agency advised the ALJ that "the State is currently reviewing this matter," and that the results of that review were expected by February 1, 2018. No Initial Decision was rendered at that time, pending results of that review.

On July 23, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision dismissing Petitioner's appeal. See Initial Decision at 2. Here, the record reflects that on February 14, 2018, the ALJ had sent correspondence to the parties inquiring as to status of the matter. Ibid. Neither party responded to the ALJ's February 14, 2018, correspondence. Ibid. As such, due to the passage of time, and the failure by either party to respond to the ALJ's status inquiry, the ALJ determined to dismiss Petitioner's appeal. Ibid. I agree.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and Petitioner's appeal is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version.

JUL 30 2019

Natasha Johnson
Director

