



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
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 09728-19 M.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C114114015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner Agency charges Respondents, husband and wife M.R. and M.R., with committing an intentional program violation ("IPV") of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"). The Agency asserts that Respondents failed to accurately report household composition, thus causing Respondents to receive an overissuance of benefits to which they were not entitled. Respondents were properly noticed of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the charges against them, and the proposed disqualification penalty, via personal service on June 12, 2019. See Exhibit P-1. Because Respondents failed to execute and return the waiver of their right to a hearing, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing as a contested case. On August 5, 2019, the Honorable David M. Fritch, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. Respondents appeared for the hearing, and the record closed on that same date.

On August 16, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, which found that the Agency had met its burden in establishing, by clear and convincing evidence, that Respondents had deliberately and intentionally withheld information from the Agency, which resulted in Respondents receiving an overissuance of SNAP benefits to which they were not entitled. See Initial Decision at 8. Specifically, Respondents reported a dependent child as a member of their household, when the child did not, in fact, live in that same household, resulting in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondents in the amount of \$1,440 for the period of December 2017, through June 2018, and September 2018, through November 2018. *Id.* at 2, 7; see also Exhibits P-2 through P-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -9.5.

As this was the first IPV committed by Respondents, the ALJ ordered the mandatory regulatory penalty of a 12-month disqualification from receipt of SNAP benefits pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.2(a)(1). See Initial Decision at 8.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the Initial Decision in this matter, and following and independent evaluation of the record,



I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

I direct that the Agency proceed to recoup the overissuance.

Accordingly, based upon the foregoing, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision in this matter, and ORDER that Respondents are disqualified from receipt of SNAP benefits for a period of 12 months. I further ORDER that the Agency is to recoup the overissuance.

Officially approved final version.

AUG 29 2019

Natasha Johnson
Director

