



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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Assistant Commissioner

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 **00748-20 E.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C013390010 (HUNTERDON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner challenges the correctness of Respondent Agency's calculation of her monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits amount. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for December 30, 2019, but was returned to the Agency, due to Petitioner's failure to appear on the date of the hearing. Thereafter, Petitioner's representative advised that no notice was received regarding December 30, 2019, hearing date, and the matter was then re-transmitted to the OAL for a hearing. On February 4, 2020, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. The record was held open to allow the parties to submit post-hearing submissions, following which, the record then closed on February 5, 2020.

It should be noted that on November 21, 2019, under OAL Docket Number HPW 14714-19, ALJ Crowley issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefit amount. On December 4, 2019, this office issued a Final Agency Decision ("FAD"), adopting the Initial Decision of ALJ Crowley. ALJ Crowley's November 21, 2019, Initial Decision ("ID"), and the December 4, 2019, FAD are incorporated by reference herein.

Regarding the present matter, on February 10, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefit amount. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner's spouse, A.F., pursued this appeal, as he contends that he is still unclear as to how the Agency calculated Petitioner's \$428 SNAP benefit allotment. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2 at 8. A.F. acknowledges, however, that the household's monthly SNAP benefit amount of \$428, and the Agency's calculation of same, was previously affirmed by ALJ Crowley. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 12-17. Here, A.F. is unclear as to the amount of the standard deduction the Agency used as part of its calculation of Petitioner's SNAP benefit allotment. See Initial Decision at 2.

The ALJ found that the handwritten SNAP calculations provided to A.F., which indicated that Petitioner had received the appropriate standard deduction for a family of four, specifically, \$178, were correct,



and that it had also listed the proper deductions for shelter expenses and child support. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-2 at 3, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(b)(4), (8), (9), -12.1(a), (b). The ALJ further found that the handwritten calculations were consistent with the computer printout, which had provided for a monthly SNAP benefit allotment amount of \$428. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-2 at 8, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.6. Based on the record presented, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's calculation of the amount of Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-2 at 3, 8, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(b), -12.2, -12.6. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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 hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

MAR - 5 2020

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

