



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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 02152-21 Y.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C243515009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits allotment amount, on recertification. Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment amount was reduced at recertification, due to the household now containing an ineligible college student. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 14, 2021, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing and took testimony. No documents were entered into evidence by either party.

On April 16, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that, at the time of Petitioner's recertification for SNAP benefits, it was determined that Petitioner's 18 year old son, who still resides with Petitioner, was a full-time college student who was not working. See Initial Decision at 2. These facts were not disputed by Petitioner. *Ibid.* In accordance with regulatory authority, applicable to full-time college students, Petitioner's son no longer qualified for SNAP benefits, thus reducing the SNAP household from two persons, to one person, and resulting in a reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment amount. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.14 and Division of Family Development Instruction ("DFDI") no. 19-01-06. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ in this matter concluded that the Agency's reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment amount was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2-3. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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 concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.



Officially approved final version.

MAY 13 2021

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

