



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
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 10220-23 C.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C128960006 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)

Petitioner Agency charges Respondent with committing an intentional program violation ("IPV") of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") program. The Agency asserts that Respondent intentionally failed to accurately report changes in household income, while she received SNAP benefits, thereby causing Respondent to receive an overissuance of benefits to which she was not entitled. Respondent was properly noticed of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the charges against her, and the proposed disqualification penalty, via certified mail, return receipt requested, by notice dated August 17, 2023. See Exhibit P-1 at 4-6. Because Respondent failed to execute and return the waiver of her right to a hearing, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing as a contested case. Initial Decision at 2, 4. On October 11, 2023, the Honorable William T. Cooper, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On October 16, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, which found that the Agency had met its burden in establishing, by clear and convincing evidence, that Respondent had deliberately and intentionally withheld information from the Agency, which resulted in Respondent receiving an overissuance of SNAP benefits, to which she was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 4. The ALJ found that Respondent, while receiving SNAP benefits, deliberately and intentionally misrepresented her household's earned income, specifically, by not reporting her son's income, which resulted in an overissuance to Respondent in the amount of \$5,922 in SNAP benefits, for the period of August, 2021, through November, 2021. See Initial Decision at 3-4, see also Exhibit P-1 at 1-2, 24, 25, 28-29, 30-39; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.14, -5.4(a)(1), (2), -9.5, & -11.20.

As this was the first IPV committed by Respondent, 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 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.



As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the Initial Decision in this matter, and following an 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 Respondent is 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. November 15, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

