



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 **03811-23 N.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C143999013 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's calculation of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits as the result of the reduction of Petitioner's eligible monthly SNAP benefits allotment in February, 2023. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 26, 2023, the Honorable Robert D. Herman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 31, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, the ALJ's Initial Decision is hereby **ADOPTED**, and the Agency determination is **AFFIRMED**, based on the discussion below.

SNAP is designed to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well-being of the population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.1(a).

Households determined eligible for SNAP benefits are certified for said benefits for a definite period of time. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.20. County Welfare Agencies ("CWAs") assign the longest certification periods possible based upon the predictability of the household's circumstances. *Ibid.* In households which contain adult members who are all elderly or disabled, the certification period assigned is for up to 24 months, with at least one CWA contact every 12 months. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(a) (stating that in households which contain all elderly or disabled adults with only unearned income, the certification period is for 24 months, with a 12-month interim contact). In such instances, an Interim Reporting Form ("IRF") is sent to the household at the 12-month interim contact point. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(a)(3).

The record in this matter reflects that, in accordance with applicable regulatory authority, shortly before the 12-month point of Petitioner's certification period, the Agency sent Petitioner an Interim Reporting



Form (“IRF”), by which Petitioner was to report any changes in income or expenses, and which are utilized in the SNAP benefits calculations. See Exhibit R-1; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(a)(3). As a result of Petitioner’s submission of the IRF, Petitioner’s monthly eligible SNAP benefit allotment was decreased from \$240 to \$229, effective February 1, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-4. In a thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, the ALJ manually went through the calculations which substantiate the Agency’s reduction in Petitioner’s monthly SNAP benefits allotment. See Initial Decision at 4-6; see also Exhibit R-4 at 2. Based upon an independent review of the record, I agree with the calculations performed by the Agency, and fully outlined by the ALJ, establishing Petitioner’s eligible SNAP benefits amount, effective February 1, 2023, as \$229. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, and the Agency’s determination is hereby AFFIRMED, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. July 5, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

