



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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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 09431-18 F.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C420876004 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits on recertification. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 23, 2018, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. On September 5, 2018, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's SNAP benefits.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 MODIFIED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED, as discussed below.

Based on an independent review of the record, I agree with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter, that Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits were properly reduced by the Agency, from \$16 to \$15, upon Petitioner's recertification of SNAP benefits, effective March 1, 2018. See Initial Decision at 3; see also DFD Instruction ("DFDI") 17-09-02 at 12 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.6(a)(2). However, the ALJ incorrectly states that Petitioner's monthly SNAP net income "after receiving all allowable deductions, equals \$1849." Id. at 2-3. Rather, \$1849 is the total amount of Petitioner's monthly Retirement Survivor's and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits. See Exhibit R-1 at 15, 19. After applicable deductions, specifically the standard deduction of \$160, the medical deduction of \$99, and the shelter deduction of \$248, Petitioner's monthly SNAP net income is, in fact, \$1,342. See id. at 21-22; see also DFDI 17-09-02 at 12. The Initial Decision is modified to reflect this finding.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is MODIFIED and the Agency determination in this matter is AFFIRMED, as outlined above.



Officially approved final version.

SEP 14 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

