



# State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR  
*Commissioner*

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL  
*Lt. Governor*

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 21897-25 D.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C283264020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner Agency charges Respondent with committing an intentional program violation ("IPV"), as defined by N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.3 and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c), of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), and seeks to impose a disqualification period from receipt of SNAP benefits against Respondent. The Agency asserts that Respondent improperly and intentionally misused her SNAP benefits, as well as that she received SNAP benefits from another state, while simultaneously receiving SNAP benefits from the State of New Jersey, thus 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, on October 4, 2025. See Exhibit P-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.5(a)(3)(i) and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(3)(i). 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. On January 9, 2026, the Honorable William J. Courtney, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record then closed. Respondent did not appear for the hearing, and the matter proceeded ex parte, which is permissible pursuant to regulation. See N.J.A.C. 1:10-14.1(d), N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.5(a)(4)(i), and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(4). Respondent was given ten days following the hearing, to present good cause for her failure to appear. See 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(4). Respondent did not respond. On January 12, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that an IPV had been established, and imposing a 10-year disqualification penalty.

In accordance with applicable regulatory authority, a SNAP benefits household must reside in the county and State in which it files for benefits, and may not collect SNAP benefits from more than one location simultaneously. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.2(a); see also 7 C.F.R. 273.3. Additionally, SNAP benefits households are required to report certain changes within 10 days which can affect eligibility and/or allotment amount, including a change in residence. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(a)(2), (b)(1)(iv); see also 7 C.F.R. 273.12.

IPVs occur when SNAP benefits are issued as the result of an intentionally false or misleading statement, misrepresentation, concealment or withholding of facts, or when SNAP benefits are improperly used, presented, transferred, acquired, possessed, received or trafficked. See N.J.A.C.10:87-11.3(a)(1), (2); see also 7 C.F.R. 273.16. An individual found to have made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect to the identity or place of residence of the individual in order to receive multiple SNAP benefits simultaneously shall be ineligible to participate in the program for a period of 10 years. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.2(e); see also 7 C.F.R. 273.16(b)(5).

Here, the ALJ found that the Agency had met its burden in establishing, by clear and convincing evidence, that Respondent had deliberately and intentionally misrepresented information to the Agency, which resulted in Respondent



receiving an overissuance of SNAP benefits, to which she was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 2-4. Specifically, the ALJ found that Respondent utilized all of her SNAP benefits within New York, for the periods of October, 2023 to April, 2024, from August, 2024 to October, 2024, and from December, 2024, to July, 2025, and further that she intentionally did not disclose to the Agency that she had received SNAP benefits from the State of New York, while also simultaneously collecting SNAP benefits from the State of New Jersey, during the period of January, 2025 through July, 2025 which resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the total amount of \$13,157. Id. at 2-3; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, P-3; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.2, -3.3, -11.3(a), -11.5(a)(6), and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c)(1), 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(6). I agree.

Additionally, because Respondent was found to have made a fraudulent statement or representation regarding her place of residence in order to receive SNAP benefits from two states at the same time, the ALJ concluded that Respondent is ineligible to participate in the SNAP program for ten (10) years pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.2(e). See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.18, 7 C.F.R. 273.16(b)(5). I also agree.

Based on the foregoing, I direct that the Agency proceed to recoup the SNAP overissuance in the amount of \$13,157, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20 and 7 C.F.R. 273.18.

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. See 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(6).

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 10 years. I further ORDER and direct the Agency to recoup the overissuance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20 and 7 C.F.R. 273.18.

Officially approved final version. February 05, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

