



# 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 **00975-26 L.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C256815020 (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, of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") and, as defined by N.J.A.C. 10:90-11.1(a), the Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") Program. The Agency asserts that Respondent intentionally provided incomplete, misleading, false, or inaccurate information regarding her household composition and household employment and income in order to obtain benefits, while she received SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits, thus causing Respondent to receive overissuances 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 penalties, via Certified Mail, on December 17, 2025. See Exhibit P-8; 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 for a hearing as a contested case. On January 21, 2026, the Honorable Marianne B. Ortega, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ,") held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record closed.

On February 9, 2026, 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, as well as an overissuance of WFNJ/GA benefits, to which she not entitled. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.3(a), -11.5(a)(6), N.J.A.C. 10:90-11.1(a), 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c)(1), and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(4). Specifically, the ALJ found that Respondent intentionally provided false or misleading documents and statements and misrepresented facts, and/or intentionally withheld or concealed facts, relating to her household composition, employment, and income, in order to receive benefits to which she was not entitled. *Ibid.* I agree. Such misrepresentations resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$8,184 for the period of November, 2020 through December, 2021, as well as an overpayment of WFNJ/GA benefits of \$1,554 for the period of January, 2021 to September, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibit P-1; and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.13(b).

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 also 7 C.F.R. 273.16(b)(1)(ii)) and ordered a penalty of a 12-month disqualification from receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-11.11(a)(1). I agree with the 12-month penalty imposed from receipt of SNAP benefits, however, as the record is devoid of any evidence that this is the second occurrence of an IPV in regards to the WFNJ/GA benefits, I am modifying the Initial Decision to impose the mandatory regulatory penalty of a 6-month disqualification from receipt



of WFNJ/GA benefits as this is the first IPV committed by Respondent. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-11.11(a)(1).

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, with the modification to the penalty imposed regarding the WFNJ/GA benefits. See 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(6).

I direct that the Agency proceed to recoup the overissuances of SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20; see N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.21(a), see also 7 C.F.R. 273.18.

Accordingly, based upon the foregoing, I hereby MODIFY the Initial Decision in this matter, and ORDER that Respondent is disqualified from receipt of SNAP benefits for a period of 12 months and disqualified from receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits for a period of 6 months. I further ORDER that the Agency is to recoup the overissuances of SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits.

Officially approved final version. March 10, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

