



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
P.O. Box 716  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625  
(609) 588-2400

Chris Christie  
*Governor*

Kim Guadagno  
*Lt. Governor*

Elizabeth Connolly  
*Acting Commissioner*

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 1225-15 D.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C116844 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's imposition of a sanction affecting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits because she repeatedly failed to attend required program assessments. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 24, 2015, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On April 7, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

I agree with the ALJ that Petitioner repeatedly failed to attend mandatory program assessments. N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.4. Initial Decision at 2-3. Like the ALJ, I find the Agency appropriately imposed a penalty under N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.16. I further find that Petitioner failed to establish good cause for her failure to attend the mandatory program assessments or to contact the Agency in an attempt to come into compliance with SNAP program requirements.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED.

**APR 17 2015**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Director