



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 15982-18 A.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C129031011 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS..)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to her failure to comply with the mandatory work requirement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 27, 2018, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 10, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner was required to attend a work activity in order to receive SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner was scheduled to attend her orientation interview on October 9, 2018, but did not attend. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibits R-3, R-4. Petitioner told the Agency that she had difficulty attending work appointments because her children were in school. See Initial Decision at 2. On October 25, 2018, the Agency issued an Adverse Action notice advising Petitioner that she was subject to a one-month disqualification from receipt of SNAP benefits, effective November 1, 2018, thereby reducing her benefits to \$18 per month, until such time as Petitioner came into compliance. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.15, -10.16(a). The Agency advised Petitioner that beginning November 13, 2018, she was required to work five hours per day, for three months. See Initial Decision at 3. Petitioner testified that she first needed to address her health issues, and presented a prescription from her doctor to demonstrate that she had health problems. *Ibid.* Petitioner further testified that she did not call the Agency for assistance in locating child care services. *Ibid.* The ALJ found that Petitioner did not provide the Agency with documentation that she is unable to work, and that she did not explore child care options through the Agency that would have assisted her, as a SNAP benefits recipient, in obtaining child care. See Initial Decision at 3-4. Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's SNAP benefits were properly reduced for failing to comply with the SNAP work requirement, without good cause, and that Petitioner failed to present evidence that she was exempt from the work/training requirement. *Id.* at 6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.2 and -10.15. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.



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 I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's actions are hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

DEC 17 2010

Natasha Johnson

Director

