



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 14345-18 J.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C431601007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner challenges the Respondent Agency's reduction of the amount of his monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 17, 2018, a plenary hearing was scheduled before the Honorable Julio C. Morejohn, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). Prior to commencement of the hearing, Petitioner left and did not return.

On October 19, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner had abandoned his appeal, without good cause, when he refused to remain for the hearing, and told security upon leaving that he "was not waiting any longer." See Initial Decision at 2. As a result, the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned the hearing, and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. Ibid. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision, and as Petitioner abandoned his fair hearing, the Agency's action stands, and is thereby AFFIRMED.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

