



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 06066-18 K.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C105172006 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits, and the imposition of a three-month disqualification penalty from receipt of SNAP benefits against a household member. The Agency reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits, and imposed a three-month disqualification penalty from receipt of SNAP benefits against a household member, because he failed to comply with the mandatory Food Stamp Employment and Training Program ("ETP") requirements. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 6, 2018, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 8, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, T.R., a member of Petitioner's SNAP household, was scheduled to attend a work training orientation appointment on March 21, 2018, but failed to attend. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 15. As a result, Petitioner's SNAP benefits were reduced for the household from \$323 to \$171 due to T.R.'s failure to comply with his ETP requirements. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5. Additionally, T.R. was removed from the SNAP household for three months, as this was T.R.'s second violation of failing, without good cause, to comply with SNAP ETP requirements. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.16(a)(2). T.R. acknowledged that he was aware that he had to report for his orientation on March 21, 2018, but did not attend because he did not have funds to pay for transportation. See Initial Decision at 3. Further, T.R. admitted that he did not call to reschedule his orientation, although he knew days before that he would not be attending due to lack of transportation. *Id.* at 4. Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits and that T.R.'s removal from the household's SNAP case for three months for failing to comply with the SNAP work requirement, without good cause, was appropriate. *Id.* at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.15, -10.16, and -10.18. 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.

Natasha Johnson
Director

JUN 28 2018

