



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

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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 **03245-24 R.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C149431003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner Agency charges Respondent with committing an intentional program violation ("IPV") of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP.") The Agency asserts that Respondent intentionally failed to report receipt of household earned income, while she received SNAP benefits, thus causing Respondent to receive an overissuance of benefits to which she was not entitled. Respondent was properly noticed of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing ("ADH,") the charges against her, and the proposed disqualification penalty, via certified mail, return receipt requested, on February 8, 2024. See Exhibits P-10, P-11. Because Respondent failed to timely 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. See Exhibit P-9. On February 27, 2024, Respondent paid \$3,981 in cash to Petitioner Agency, which caused the \$4,011 overpayment to be paid in full, as Respondent had previously paid \$30 on the balance. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-16. On April 15, 2024, the Honorable Sarah H. Surgent, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. Respondent testified that she wished to waive the disqualification hearing; however, since Respondent had missed the deadline to return the waiver of her right to a hearing to the Agency, her waiver was placed on the record, and she signed and returned to waiver later that day. See Exhibit C-1. The record then closed that day.

On April 22, 2024, 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, to which she was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 4. Specifically, the ALJ found that Respondent intentionally did not report the receipt of earned income, which resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$4,011, for the period of August, 2022, through December, 2022. *Id.* at 2, 3; see also Exhibits P-1, P-4, P-5, P-12, P-13, P-14; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4(a)(1), (2), -9.5.

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 Initial Decision at 4.

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.



Accordingly, based upon the foregoing, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision in this matter, and ORDER that Respondent is disqualified from receipt of SNAP benefits for a period of 12 months.

Officially approved final version. May 16, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

