



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
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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 **05049-24 D.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C175796020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION 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 accurately report household income, and a change of address, while he received SNAP benefits, thus causing Respondent to receive an overissuance of benefits to which he was not entitled. Respondent was properly noticed of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the charges against him, and the proposed disqualification penalty, via certified mail, return receipt requested, on February 26, 2024. See Exhibits P-7 at 9-15, P-8. Because Respondent failed to execute and return the waiver of his right to a hearing, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing as a contested case. See Exhibit P-7 at 3-4. On May 3, 2024, the Honorable Jude-Anthony Tiscornia, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ,") held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. Respondent did not appear for the hearing, and the matter proceeded ex parte, which is permissible pursuant to our regulatory scheme. See N.J.A.C. 1:10-14.1(d). Respondent was given ten (10) days from the date of hearing to show good cause for his failure to appear. Respondent did not contact the OAL, and the record then closed on May 13, 2024.

On May 14, 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 he was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 3. Specifically, the ALJ found that Respondent intentionally did not report the receipt of earned income, and did not report a change of address, namely, that he had moved to North Carolina, which resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$2,278, for the period beginning July, 2023, through December, 2023. Id. at 2, 3; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, P-3, P-4, P-5, P-6; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4(a)(1), (2), -5.5, -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.

I direct that the Agency proceed to recoup the overissuance.



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. I further ORDER that the Agency is to recoup the overissuance.

Officially approved final version. June 04, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

