



State of New Jersey

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Governor

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 08772-18 D.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S784415009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 12, 2018, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony. No documents were submitted into evidence.

On July 17, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that the Agency failed to submit any evidence, and could not give any reason, to support its reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3. The ALJ found that there were no changes to Petitioner's household size, income, or other circumstances, which could result in a reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits. *Id.* at 3. Based on the testimony presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits from \$192 to \$108 per month was unsupported by any evidence and therefore improper, and that the Agency is to provide Petitioner with SNAP benefits in the amount \$192 per month, and to issue the difference of \$84 for the month(s) that Petitioner's SNAP benefits had been reduced. *Id.* at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.25, -6.16, -9.4, -12.6. 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 considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is REVERSED.

Officially approved final version.

AUG - 6 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director



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