



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 07057-18 J.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C089357015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD 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 failed to accurately report household composition and income while she received SNAP benefits, thus causing Respondent to receive an overissuance of benefits to which she was not entitled. Respondent and Respondent's spouse were properly noticed of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the charges against her, and the proposed disqualification penalty via personal service, on April 11, 2018. See Exhibit P-1. Because Respondent failed to 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. On May 29, 2018, the Honorable Edward J. Delaney, Jr., Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. Neither Respondent, nor her spouse, appeared 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). The record remained open for ten days for Respondent to present good cause for her failure to appear. Respondent did not respond and the record closed on June 8, 2018.

On June 19, 2018, 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 5. Specifically, Respondent intentionally failed to accurately report that her spouse was a member of the SNAP household and also failed to accurately report her spouse's earned income, during the periods of July 2011, through June 2012; October 2012, through February 2014; and April 2014, through October 2016, which resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$22,585.00. Ibid.; see also Exhibit P-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.1, -2.2, -5.2(a)(1), -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 6.



No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the Initial Decision in this matter, and following and 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 Respondents are ineligible to participate in SNAP for a period of 12 months. I further ORDER that the Agency is to recoup the overissuance.

JUN 27 2018

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

