



State of New Jersey

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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 11037-18 P.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C124538003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to non-compliance with the SNAP work requirement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 20, 2018, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 4, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on July 18, 2018, the Agency notified Petitioner that his SNAP benefits would be terminated, effective August 1, 2018, for failing to comply with the required work activity. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-9. The record further reflects that Petitioner was assigned 16 hours of work activity per week, and was scheduled to begin the work activity on July 1, 2018. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-11. On July 1, 2018, Petitioner reported to the work activity, but was asked by the supervisor to leave because of an incident involving a volunteer. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-12. The Agency testified credibly that Petitioner got into an angry exchange of words with a volunteer, and was asked to leave for the day, as "she could not have him causing confrontation with [the] volunteers." Ibid. The ALJ found that Petitioner's actions were disruptive to the operations of the worksite, and the supervisor felt the need to intervene so that the altercation would not escalate further. See Initial Decision at 6. Accordingly, the ALJ determined that Petitioner was unable to comply with his SNAP work requirement due to his initiating an altercation with a volunteer at the work site, and further determined that Petitioner had not provided good cause for his failure to comply with his SNAP work requirement. See Initial Decision at 9; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.15(a) (1), -10.18(a), -10.4(c)(3). Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 9, see also Exhibit R-9. I agree.

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 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 Conclusions 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.

SEP 11 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

