



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 09625-19 C.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C160647004 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Petitioner's SNAP benefits were reduced due to an increase in household income. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 12, 2019, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On August 26, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner's household received \$687 in monthly SNAP benefits from February, 2019 through July, 2019. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 50, 52. On April 17, 2019, Petitioner began receiving weekly Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB") in the amount of \$330. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 11, 19-21. In May, 2019, the Agency determined that Petitioner received an average of \$293 per month in child support payments ("CSP"). See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-5, 22-39. Due an increase in her household income, specifically, the receipt of UIB, on June 25, 2019, the Agency notified Petitioner that her monthly SNAP benefit amount would be reduced from \$687 to \$471, effective August 1, 2019. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.5(a)(2). Prior to the fair hearing, but after Petitioner had been notified that her SNAP benefits were to be reduced, the Agency determined that Petitioner had only received an average of \$210 per month in CSP, instead of \$293 per month in CSP, the Agency previously calculated in May, 2019. See Initial Decision at 2, see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-5. Accordingly, when that difference was factored into the calculation to determine Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits, Petitioner's benefits were then increased to \$496, effective September 1, 2019. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1 at 40-42, 43-45.

Petitioner contends that the Agency incorrectly calculated her UIB income, which caused her SNAP benefits to be reduced, as she only receives \$330 per week, and that there are 4 weeks in a month, and therefore, her monthly UIB income totals \$1,320 (\$330 x 4). See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ found, in accordance with applicable regulatory authority, that the Agency had properly calculated Petitioner's monthly UIB by multiplying her weekly UIB by the multiplier of 4.333 to equal \$1,430 (\$330 x 4.333 = \$1,430). Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10, 43, 44, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.9(d)(1). The ALJ



further found that the Agency had properly calculated Petitioner's monthly household income, and therefore concluded that her monthly SNAP benefits were thereby appropriately reduced based upon that calculation. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 43-45. Accordingly, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's reduction of Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 43-45, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.5(a)(2), -9.5. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

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 Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

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