



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
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 15219-19 S.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S603725012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD OF SOC SCVS)**

Petitioner Agency charges Respondent with committing an intentional program violation ("IPV") of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") and the Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") program. The Agency asserts that Respondent failed to report a change in household composition while she was receiving SNAP and WFNJ/TANF benefits, thus causing Respondent to receive an overissuance of benefits to which she was not entitled. Respondent was properly noticed of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the charges against her, and the proposed disqualification penalties, via certified mail, return receipt requested, on September 20, 2019. See Exhibit P-1 at 1, 2-3, 5-6. Because Respondent failed to execute and return either waiver of her right to a hearing, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing as a contested case. *Id.* at 4, 7-8. On November 12, 2019, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 19, 2019, 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 and WFNJ/TANF benefits to which she was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 6. Specifically, Respondent intentionally did not accurately report that her child, I.S., was removed from her custody, effective August 22, 2018, and placed with the child's biological father, which resulted in a change of household composition and an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$605, and an overissuance of \$1,037 in WFNJ/TANF benefits, from August, 2018, through November, 2018. *Id.* at 3; see also Exhibit P-1 at 9-11, 12-13, 20, 21, 28-40, 44, 46; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.2(a)(1), -9.5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.21(a).

As this was the first IPV committed by Respondent, the ALJ ordered the mandatory regulatory penalties of a 12-month disqualification from receipt of SNAP benefits, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.2(a)(1), and a 6-month disqualification from the WFNJ program, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-11.11(a)(1). See Initial Decision at 7.



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 overissuances.

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, and from receipt of WFNJ benefits for a period of six months. I further ORDER that the Agency is to recoup the overissuances.

Officially approved final version.

DEC 13 2015

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

