



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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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 03410-20 C.U.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C046788019 (SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's determination of his monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefit amount. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for March 31, 2020, but was adjourned due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The matter was rescheduled, and on August 18, 2020, the Honorable Nanci G. Stokes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), convened a telephonic plenary hearing. At that time, the ALJ was advised by the Agency representative that Petitioner's sister had contacted the Agency to inform that Petitioner had passed away on July 5, 2020. No representative appeared for the telephonic hearing on Petitioner's behalf. On August 19, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, dismissing Petitioner's appeal, as no representative had appeared for the telephonic hearing on Petitioner's behalf, and therefore, the case was no longer contested.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I find that, as no representative appeared on Petitioner's behalf for the telephonic plenary hearing before the ALJ, a contested case no longer exists and this matter has now been rendered moot. As such, I hereby DISMISS Petitioner's appeal.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal now being deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version.

AUG 27 2020

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

