



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
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 16425-19 G.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C003728013 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. 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, and household composition. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 6, 2019, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 19, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner, a Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits recipient, and R.A., a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, are listed as co-heads of household, living at the same address. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits P-2, R-1 at 1. The record further reflects that Petitioner and R.A. are not a couple, and that R.A. does not contribute anything to the household. See Initial Decision at 2. On or about November 21, 2019, Petitioner's SNAP benefits were reduced to \$16 per month, due to an increase in the household income, and also because Petitioner and R.A. did not maintain separate households. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.19(i), -5.2(a)(2), 5.5(a)(2). Petitioner contends that R.A. is living with her temporarily. See Initial Decision at 2, 3. The ALJ found that, while R.A. lives with Petitioner temporarily, the income level of the household, and the household composition, has changed. *Id.* at 3. The ALJ further found that Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits were appropriately reduced based upon Petitioner's increased household size and household income. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 3. Accordingly, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's reduction of Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.19(i), -5.2(a)(2), -5.5(a)(2). Based on the evidence presented, I agree, as there is no evidence that Petitioner and R.A. purchase and prepare meals separately from each other. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(a)(2).

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
Assistant Commissioner

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