



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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*Commissioner*

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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 **16808-25 J.E.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C080224015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner Agency charges Respondent with committing an intentional program violation ("IPV"), as defined by N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.3 and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c), of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"). The Agency asserts that Respondent intentionally misrepresented his earned income while he received SNAP benefits, thus causing Respondent to receive an overissuance of benefits to which he was not entitled. Respondent was properly noticed of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the charges against him, and the proposed disqualification penalty, via personal service, which Respondent signed for on September 3, 2025. See Exhibit P-1; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.5(a)(3)(i) and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(3)(i). Because Respondent failed to execute and return the waiver of his right to a hearing, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing as a contested case. On October 14, 2025, the Honorable William T. Cooper III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed. Respondent did not appear for the hearing, and the matter proceeded ex parte, which is permissible pursuant to regulation. See N.J.A.C. 1:10-14.1(d), N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.5(a)(4)(i), and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(4). Respondent was given ten days following the hearing to present good cause for his failure to appear. See 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(4). Respondent did not respond.

On October 29, 2025, 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 benefits, to which he was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.3(a), -11.5(a)(6), 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c)(1), and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(4). The ALJ found that Respondent had deliberately and intentionally withheld information from the Agency, by failing to accurately report his earned income, which resulted in Respondent receiving an overissuance of SNAP benefits, to which he was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-2, P-3, P-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.2(a)(1), -9.5(a)(3), -11.5(a)(6) and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c)(1). Accordingly, the ALJ found that Respondent committed a SNAP IPV by concealing and withholding information regarding his income. See Initial Decision at 2-5. I agree.

IPVs occur where the person intentionally "made a false or misleading statement, or misrepresented, concealed or withheld facts." See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.3 and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c). Such misrepresentations in this matter resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits in the amount of \$5,806 to Respondent from August, 2023 through March, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-2, P-3, P-4, P-5.

As this was the first IPV committed by Respondent, the ALJ ordered the mandatory regulatory penalty of a 12-month disqualification from receipt of SNAP benefits, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.2(a)(1). See Initial Decision at 5; see also 7 C.F.R. 273.16(b)(1)(i).



No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the Initial Decision in this matter, and following an 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. See 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(6).

I direct that the Agency proceed to recoup the overissuance pursuant to N.J.AC. 10:87-11.20 and 7 C.F.R. 273.18.

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. I further ORDER that the Agency is to recoup the overissuance.

Officially approved final version. November 19, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

