



State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lt. Governor

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 **05881-26 A.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C128134015 (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 failed to report the correct amount of earned income while her household received SNAP 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 penalty, via personal service, on February 19, 2026. 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 her right to a hearing, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing as a contested case. On April 28, 2026, the Honorable Allison Friedman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 22, 2026, 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 she was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-2, P-3, P-4, P-5, P-6, P-7, P-8, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.3(a), -11.5(a)(6), 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c)(1), 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(4). Specifically, the ALJ found that Respondent intentionally failed to report the correct amount of earned income, as well as changes in the amount of earned income received, at the time of her SNAP application and on an Interim Reporting Form. *Ibid.*; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.2(a)(1), -9.5(a)(3). Such misrepresentations resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$1,818 for the period of March, 2024 through August, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-2, P-3, P-4, P-6, P-7, P-8.

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.A.C. 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. June 10, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

