



State of New Jersey

Mikie Sherrill
Governor

dr. dale g. caldwell
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

dr. stephen cha
Commissioner

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 19915-25 R.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C139808015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner Agency charges Respondents, E.H. and R.H. (docketed separately under Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") Docket Nos. HPW 19914-25 (E.H.) and HPW 19915-25 (R.H.), respectively), 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 Respondents intentionally failed to accurately report receipt of earned income while they received SNAP benefits, thus causing Respondents to receive an overissuance of benefits to which they were not entitled. Respondents were served with notice of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the charges against them, and the proposed disqualification penalty. 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 Respondents failed to execute and return the waiver of their right to a hearing, the matter was transmitted to the OAL for a hearing as a contested case. On December 22, 2025, the Advia Knight Foster, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), consolidated Respondents' separate matters. See N.J.A.C. 1:1-17.3(a). On December 23, 2025, the ALJ held an administrative disqualification hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record closed.

On January 2, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, which found that the Agency had met its burden in establishing, by clear and convincing evidence, that Respondents had deliberately and intentionally withheld information from the Agency, which resulted in Respondents receiving an overissuance of SNAP benefits, to which they were not entitled. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-2, P-3, P-4, P-5, P-6, P-7 and 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). 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). The ALJ found that Respondents intentionally failed to accurately report R.H.'s employment, as well as his earned income, when adding R.H. to the SNAP household, at the time of their SNAP application on November 15, 2023, and thereafter on an Interim Reporting Form ("IRF") on April 1, 2024, which would have made their household ineligible to receive SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-2, P-3, P-4, P-5, P-6, P-7 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.2(a)(1), -9.5(a)(3). Such misrepresentations of earned income received resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondents in the amount of \$7,621 for the period of November, 2023 through December, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-2, P-3, P-4, P-5, P-6, P-7.

As this was the first IPV committed by Respondents, 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 2,5; 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 Respondents are 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. January 20, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

