



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
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 19919-25 Y.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C081264015 (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 employment and the receipt of 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, on October 27, 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 December 16, 2025, the Honorable Deirdre Hartman-Zohlman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 17, 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 2-5; see also Exhibits P-2, P-3, P-4, P-5, P-6, 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 employment, which commenced April 1, 2023, nor subsequent receipt of earned income at the time of his SNAP application in May, 2023 or on his Interim Reporting Form in November, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibits P-3, P-4, P-5, 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 \$10,614 for the period of July, 2023, through December, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibits P-2, P-6.

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. January 08, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

