



State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
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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 **00218-26 J.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C213519020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION 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, of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") and, as defined by N.J.A.C. 10:90-11.1(a), the Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") Program. The Agency asserts that Respondent intentionally provided incomplete, misleading, false, or inaccurate information regarding her income, and household composition, in order to obtain, and while, she received SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits, thus causing Respondent to receive overissuances 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 penalties, via personal service, on December 19, 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 her right to a hearing, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing as a contested case. On January 16, 2026, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ,") held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record 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 her failure to appear. See 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(4). Respondent did not respond. On June 2, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Respondent had committed an IPV, and ordering that Respondent be disqualified from receiving SNAP benefits for a period of 12 months.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the Initial Decision and the record in this matter, and hereby MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision, based on the discussion below.

Here, the ALJ 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 not entitled. See Initial Decision at 2-4; 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). Specifically, the ALJ found that Respondent intentionally provided false or misleading statements and misrepresented facts, and/or intentionally withheld or concealed facts relating to her claims that she was unemployed, and that there was another gainfully employed adult residing in her household, in order to receive benefits to which was not entitled. Ibid. I agree. Such misrepresentations resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$3,395.60 for the period of November, 2022 through November, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit P-1, N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.13(b) and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(e)(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 also 7 C.F.R. 273.16(b)(1)(i)). See Initial Decision at 3-4. I also agree.

Although Respondent was properly noticed regarding an overissuance of WFNJ/GA benefits, same was not addressed within the Initial Decision. An independent review of the record reveals that Respondent also received an overissuance of WFNJ/GA benefits, to which she was not entitled, based upon her failure to disclose earned income, as well as the proper household composition. See Exhibit P-1; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-11.1(a). I find that such misrepresentations resulted in an overissuance of WFNJ/GA benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$1,849.30 from November, 2022 to August, 2023. See Exhibit P-1. As such, I hereby impose the mandatory regulatory penalty of a 6-month disqualification from receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits as this is the first IPV committed by Respondent. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-11.11(a)(1). The Initial Decision is modified to reflect these findings.

I direct that the Agency proceed to recoup the overissuances of SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20; see N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.21(a), see also 7 C.F.R. 273.18.

Accordingly, based upon the foregoing, I hereby MODIFY the Initial Decision in this matter, and ORDER that Respondent is disqualified from receipt of SNAP benefits for a period of 12 months and disqualified from receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits for a period of 6 months. I further ORDER that the Agency is to recoup the overissuances of SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits.

Officially approved final version. June 10, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

