



State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL
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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 **04358-26 S.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C289852020 (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(c), of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"). The Agency asserts that Respondent intentionally failed to report receipt of earned income, while she 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 Certified Mail. See Exhibit P-6; 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. This matter was initially scheduled for March 25, 2026, at which time an adjournment was granted to allow for the parties to provide documentation. On April 27, 2026, the Honorable Sudha V. Raja, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ,") held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open to allow for the submission of additional documentation and then closed on May 4, 2026.

IPVs occur when SNAP benefits are issued as the result of an intentionally false or misleading statement, misrepresentation, concealment or withholding of facts, or when SNAP benefits are improperly used, presented, transferred, acquired, possessed, received or trafficked. See N.J.A.C.10:87-11.3(a)(1), (2); see also 7 C.F.R. 273.16.

On May 15, 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 not entitled. See Initial Decision at 3-6; 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 failed to report receipt of earned income and monetary support, both at the time of her SNAP application, as well as on her Interim Reporting Form ("IRF"), which would have made her household ineligible to receive SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-1, P-3, P-4, P-7, P-8, P-9, P-10, P-11, P-13, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.2(a)(1), -9.5(a)(3) and 7 C.F.R. 273.16(c)(1). Such misrepresentations resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$7,516 for the period of November, 2023 through December, 2025. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibits P-1, P-3, P-4.

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 6; see also 7 C.F.R. 273.16(b)(1)(i).

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Respondent on May 26, 2026.



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.

By way of comment, I have reviewed Respondent's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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 04, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

