



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 1986-15 J.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C074308 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to a failure to comply with a required work activity. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 24, 2015, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On April 2, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ noted that Petitioner had been scheduled to attend a work activity on December 29, 2014. See Initial Decision at 2. Several days prior to the scheduled work activity, Petitioner was injured in an automobile accident. *Ibid.* Petitioner did not attend the work activity, and never notified the Agency of his medical condition which had precluded him from attending the work activity. See *id.* at 3. The Agency sent Petitioner notice on January 16, 2015, that his SNAP benefits would terminate. *Ibid.* Petitioner was then advised by the Agency to either "reschedule compliance" or provide a MED-1 form, exempting him from the work requirement. *Ibid.* Petitioner did not attempt compliance and did not provide a MED-1 form until February 9, 2015. *Ibid.* The ALJ noted that Petitioner had an obligation to notify the Agency of his status and he had failed to do so. See *id.* at 3-4. Furthermore, the ALJ stated that Petitioner did not provide the Agency with the MED-1 form until after said form had expired on February 2, 2015. See *id.* at 4. Based upon the foregoing, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's determination, but opined that should Petitioner reapply for SNAP benefits and come into compliance with the work activity, he should not incur any sanction. *Ibid.*

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency action is hereby AFFIRMED.

APR 13 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director