



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 4528-17 L.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C174160002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's sanctioning of his Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to his failure to comply with his work requirement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 11, 2017, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until May 22, 2017, in order to allow the parties time to submit additional documentation, and the record then closed.

On May 23, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner was required to attend an employment assessment interview in order to receive SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner was originally scheduled to attend his employment assessment on February 8, 2017, but cancelled due to a snow day. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner was then scheduled for February 20, 2017, but requested the appointment be adjourned because his daughter was off from school. *Ibid.* Finally, Petitioner was scheduled for a third date on March 1, 2017, but again failed to attend. *Id.* at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-2. Subsequently, the Agency issued an Adverse Action notice advising Petitioner he was subject to a one-month sanction of SNAP benefits effective April 1, 2017. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.15, -10.16(a).

The ALJ found that Petitioner failed to comply with the SNAP work requirement and was therefore subject to a one month disqualification of SNAP benefits from April 1, 2017, through April 31, 2017. See Initial Decision at 4. In addition, the ALJ concluded that the Agency was entitled to a recoupment of \$163.00 in continued assistance benefits provided during Petitioner's one month sanction period. *Ibid.* I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

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



Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's actions are hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

