



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 03249-18 I.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C114914002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's sanctioning of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to her failure to register for work. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 27, 2018, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On April 3, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner was scheduled to attend an employment services appointment on November 13, 2017, but failed to attend. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4. As a result, Petitioner's SNAP benefits for the household were reduced from \$913 to \$760, effective January 1, 2018, for refusing to register for work. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 5-10. Petitioner's husband testified that Petitioner cannot work because she needs to help take care of him. See Initial Decision at 3. He further testified that he has herniated discs, bad knees and numbness, and that due to his religion, he cannot have someone not related to him assist him with activities like bathing and toileting. Ibid. The ALJ found that Petitioner had no current documentation to establish that her husband has been deemed permanently and totally disabled by the Social Security Administration or a medical professional, such that Petitioner would qualify for an exemption from the work registration requirement. Id. at 6; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.2(b)(2)(i), (4). Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's SNAP benefits were properly sanctioned for failing to comply with the SNAP work requirement, without good cause, and that Petitioner failed to present evidence that she was exempt from the work/training requirement. See Initial Decision at 6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.2 and -10.15. 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.

APR 13 2010

Natasha Johnson
Director

