



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

CAROLE JOHNSON  
*Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 08852-18 R.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C357856007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner challenges the reduction of his Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 12, 2018, a plenary hearing was scheduled, but because Petitioner abandoned the hearing prior to its commencement, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), took no testimony and admitted no documents.

On July 16, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner abandoned his appeal when Petitioner abruptly left the hearing room, without good cause, while the ALJ was on the bench, and did not return. See Initial Decision at 2. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits must be affirmed. *Ibid.* I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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 is hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

**AUG - 2 2018**

Natasha Johnson  
Director

