



State of New Jersey

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 853-15 A.V.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C275571 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of continued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits because the Agency purportedly could not locate Petitioner. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 19, 2015, the Honorable Sandra Ann Robinson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On March 9, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that the Agency did not dispute that Petitioner notified the Agency of her move, nor did it dispute that no mail sent to Petitioner was ever returned to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3, para. 12-13. Moreover, the Agency presented no evidence as to why Petitioner's SNAP benefits were stopped after Petitioner having received benefits while residing both at her former and present addresses. See Initial Decision at 5. As such, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had improperly denied Petitioner continuation of her SNAP benefits. See *id.* at 5-6. The ALJ further ordered that the Agency be in contact with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency ("DCP&P"), f/k/a DYFS, in light of the Agency's open case involving Petitioner.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Deputy 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 findings of fact and

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conclusions of law in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency's determination.

A copy of the Initial and Final Decisions in this matter shall be forwarded to DCP&P.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is REVERSED.

MAR 18 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Deputy Director