



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Director
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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 10318-14 S.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C649675 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 8, 2014, the Honorable Jesse H. Strauss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On September 9, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which reversed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I independently reviewed the record and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency determination.

The purpose of SNAP is to "promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well being of the population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households." N.J.A.C. 10:87-1.1.

Petitioner is responsible to disclose all facts regarding her individual circumstances as part of her application for SNAP benefits. N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20(c); -2.22(c). The Agency has an affirmative duty to "explore and resolve with the household any unclear and incomplete information." N.J.A.C. 10:87-18(c). The Agency must verify any questionable information that may affect eligibility for SNAP benefits or the amount of the allotment. N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20; 2.24(c).

In August 2014, the Agency terminated SNAP benefits, ostensibly because Petitioner did not produce information "listed on [your] FSP-33." The Agency could not establish what information it allegedly requested, and could not otherwise support its termination of SNAP benefits.

For the foregoing reasons, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency determination.

SEP 17 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director