

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
APPEALS OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DOCKET No. 26-0694

v.

██████████

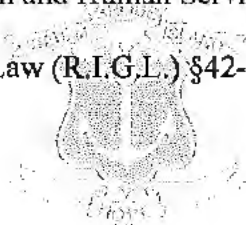
DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION

An Administrative Disqualification Hearing Officer conducted a Microsoft Teams hearing in the above-entitled matter on March 13, 2026. The Department of Administration, Office of Internal Audit, Fraud Detection and Prevention Unit (Agency), on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS), initiated this matter for an Administrative Disqualification Hearing to examine the charge that the Respondent, ██████████, had committed an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Agency argues that the Respondent committed an IPV between January 1, 2023, and March 31, 2023, by failing to report earned income. The Agency seeks the Respondent to be charged with an IPV and be disqualified from SNAP for 12 months. The Respondent's SNAP case number is ██████████. For the reasons discussed in more detail below, the Administrative Disqualification Hearing has been decided in the Agency's favor.

II. JURISDICTION

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is authorized and designated by Rhode Island General Law (R.I.G.L.) §42-7.2-6.1 and 210-RICR-10-05-2 to be the



entity responsible for appeals and hearings related to human services. The administrative hearing was held in accordance with 210-RICR-10-05-2 and the Administrative Procedures Act (R.I.G.L. §42-35.1 et. seq.).

III. ISSUE

The issue before the Administrative Disqualification Hearing Officer is whether the Respondent committed a SNAP IPV by intentionally making a false statement(s), misleading statement(s), making misrepresentation(s), concealing fact(s), withholding fact(s), or committing any act(s) that constitutes a violation of SNAP regulations in accordance with Federal and State regulations.

IV. STANDARD OF PROOF

The Administrative Disqualification Hearing Officer is required to carefully consider the evidence and determine if an IPV occurred based on clear and convincing evidence. The Agency's burden to support claims with clear and convincing evidence requires that they present clear, direct, and convincing facts that the Administrative Disqualification Hearing Officer can accept as highly probable. 7 C.F.R. § 273.16(e)(6) & 218-RICR-20-00-1.9(B).

V. PARTIES AND EXHIBITS

Fraud Internal Auditor Manager Brittny Medeiros appeared on behalf of the Agency. The Respondent did not attend the hearing. In accordance with 7 C.F.R. §273.16(e)(4) and 218-RICR-20-00-1.22(K)(13), the hearing was conducted without the Respondent present or represented. The following Agency exhibits were presented and marked as evidence at hearing.

- Exhibit #1 – Excerpts of SNAP regulations relied upon by the Agency.

- Exhibit #2 – A copy of an Equifax: The Work Number printout for the Respondent’s employment at [REDACTED] date of hire November 30, 2022.
- Exhibit #3 – A copy of the Respondent’s signed SNAP application, signed by the Respondent, on March 31, 2022.
- Exhibit #4 – A copy of a SNAP Benefit Decision Notice (BDN) dated March 31, 2022, for case # [REDACTED]
- Exhibit #5 – A copy of a SNAP Recertification/Renewal Notice dated January 1, 2023, for case # [REDACTED]
- Exhibit #6 – A copy of case notes from the Respondent’s case # [REDACTED] dated March 7, 2023.
- Exhibit #7 – A copy of a SNAP BDN dated March 7, 2023, for case # [REDACTED]
- Exhibit #8 – A copy of the United States Department of Agriculture Electronic Disqualified Recipient System (eDRS) for the Respondent, dated January 6, 2026.
- Exhibit #9 – A copy of the SNAP packet dated January 8, 2026, addressed to the Respondent.
- Exhibit #10 – A copy of email correspondence from Ms. Medeiros to the Respondent dated January 23, 2026.

VI. RELEVANT LAW/REGULATIONS

According to 218-RICR-20-00-1.9(C), an IPV is defined as intentionally making false or misleading statements, misrepresenting, concealing, withholding facts, or committing any act that constitutes a violation of SNAP, SNAP regulations, or any State statute “for the purpose of using, presenting, transferring, acquiring, receiving, possessing, or trafficking SNAP benefits or EBT cards.” To determine whether an IPV has occurred, the State agency must conduct an

administrative disqualification hearing to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence of an IPV. 7 C.F.R. §273.16(c) & 7 C.F.R. §273.16(e)(6).

Similarly, the Rhode Island counterpart, 218-RICR-20-00-1.9, provides that “The Office of Internal Audit is responsible for investigating any case of an alleged IPV and ensuring that appropriate cases are acted upon, either through Administrative Disqualification Hearings or referrals to a court of appropriate jurisdiction.” It further provides that “administrative disqualification referrals for prosecution action be initiated whenever there is sufficient documentary evidence to substantiate” that an IPV occurred.

According to 218-RICR-20-00-1.9(A)(3)(c)(1) and 7 C.F.R. §273.16(b)(1)(i), if a finding is made that an IPV of the SNAP regulations has occurred, the disqualification penalty is 12 months for the first violation.

All countable household income needs to be reported to DHS by the SNAP recipient. According to 218-RICR-20-00-1.5.2(A)(1)(a)(1), household income means all income from all wages and salaries for services performed as an employee.

According to 218-RICR-20-00-1.13.1(A)(2)(a), a Simplified Reporter's sole reporting requirement is to report changes in income in excess of the gross income eligibility standard for that size household by the tenth day of the month following the month in which the change occurred.

VII. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent is a simplified reporter, and the SNAP household consisted of just herself.

2. The Respondent applied for SNAP on March 31, 2022, when the Agency received a signed application.
 - a. Pages 28 through 30 of this application list the Respondents' rights and responsibilities for SNAP. Page 31 lists the SNAP Penalty warnings and states, "DO NOT lie or hide information to get or continue to get SNAP benefits that your household should not get."
 - b. The Respondent signed, under penalty of perjury, on page 32.
3. A SNAP BDN was issued to the Respondent on March 31, 2022.
 - a. Page 2 informs the Respondent that her household had been approved for SNAP benefits from April 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, in the amount of \$250.00 for a household of one.
 - b. Page 2 further states, "You must tell us if your household's gross income (before taxes) is more than \$1,396. You must tell us no later than 10 days after the end of the month when your income went up.
 - c. Pages 3 through 9 of this BDN list the Respondents' rights, responsibilities, and SNAP penalty warnings for participating in SNAP.
 - d. Page 8 states, "DO NOT lie or hide information to get or continue to get SNAP benefits that your household should not get."
4. On February 23, 2023, DHS received the Respondent's SNAP Renewal Form for continuation of SNAP beyond February 28, 2023.
 - a. Page 2 of this Renewal provided directions on how to complete and submit the form, specifically informing the Respondent that she needed to review the information on the form and make any necessary corrections.

- b. The Respondent reported no changes to contact information, income, or expenses on this Renewal form.
 - c. The Respondent signed page 9 on February 10, 2023, directly under the Penalty Warning statement, which read: "My signature below indicates that I have read or have had read to me the Rights and Responsibilities attached to the form. Under penalty of perjury, I attest that all of my answers on this renewal form are correct and complete to the best of my knowledge, including information about citizenship and immigration status and the identity of the minor child named on this form. I understand that I am breaking the law if I purposely give wrong information and can be punished under federal law, state law, or both."
5. On March 7, 2023, a DHS eligibility worker completed a SNAP interview. When the DHS worker asked the Respondent if she was working, the Respondent answered that she had just started working at [REDACTED] a week ago.
6. The DHS worker found the Respondent's income via Equifax: The Work Number and noticed that the Respondent's date of hire at [REDACTED] was November 30, 2022, and that she received her first paycheck from this employer on December 13, 2022.
7. The Respondent earned more than \$1,396 in December 2022.
8. When the income from the Respondent's employment was added to her SNAP case, she was no longer eligible for SNAP because now she was over the income limit for a household of one.
9. A SNAP BDN was issued to the Respondent on March 7, 2023.
 - a. Page 2 states that SNAP will be closing effective April 1, 2023, because the household is no longer eligible as the income exceeds the limit for the program.

10. The Respondent has no prior IPV's. Because this is the Respondent's first IPV, the State is requesting that the Respondent be disqualified from SNAP for 12 months.

VIII. DISCUSSION

The issue to be decided is whether the Respondent committed a SNAP IPV by intentionally making a false statement(s), misleading statement(s), making misrepresentation(s), concealing fact(s), withholding fact(s), or committing any act(s) that constitutes a violation of SNAP regulations.

The Respondent began working at [REDACTED] on November 30, 2022, but she did not earn more than \$ 1,396 per month until December 2022. Since the Respondent is a simplified reporter, she needed to report this income to DHS by January 11, 2023. The Respondent not only failed to report this income by January 11, 2023, but the Respondent also did not report this income on the SNAP renewal received on February 28, 2023. The Respondent signed this SNAP renewal, under penalty of perjury, claiming that all information was true and accurate.

The Respondent was informed of her rights, responsibilities, and SNAP penalty warnings when she initially applied for SNAP, on pages 28 through 30 of the March 31, 2022, SNAP application. The Respondent was further informed of her rights, responsibilities, and SNAP penalty warnings when she received the SNAP BDN dated March 31, 2022. On this BDN, the Respondent was instructed to report any changes in income exceeding \$1,396 per month. The Respondent was also informed, "DO NOT lie or hide information to get or continue to get SNAP benefits that your household should not get." The Respondent signed, under penalty of perjury, stating that she was informed of her rights and responsibilities for SNAP and the SNAP penalty warnings.

Despite being informed numerous times of the rights, responsibilities, and the SNAP penalty warnings, the Respondent committed a SNAP IPV by intentionally making misrepresentations or by concealing or withholding facts from DHS.

IX. CONCLUSION OF LAW

After a careful review of the evidence and testimony presented at this Administrative Disqualification Hearing, the Agency has presented clear and convincing evidence that:

1. The Respondent was informed of the SNAP rights and responsibilities and SNAP penalty warnings.
2. The Respondent committed a SNAP IPV by intentionally not reporting income to DHS by the tenth day of the month following the month in which her monthly income exceeded \$1,396 in wages.
3. The Respondent committed an IPV between January 11, 2023, and March 31, 2023.
4. Consequently, the Respondent, as head of household, will not be able to participate in SNAP for 12 months per 7 CFR 273.16 (b)(1)(i) and 218-RICR-20-00-1.9 (A)(3)(c)(1).

X. DECISION

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, conclusions of law, evidence, and testimony, it is found that a final order is hereby entered that the Respondent committed a SNAP IPV and is disqualified from participating in SNAP for 12 months.

AGENCY'S INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION CHARGE IS GRANTED

/s/ Robert Pelosi

Administrative Disqualification Hearing Officer

NOTICE OF APPELLATE RIGHTS

This decision is a final order under R.I.G.L. § 42-35-12. Under R.I.G.L. § 42-35-15, this Order may be appealed to court within 30 days of the mailing of this decision. Such an appeal, if taken, must be completed by filing a complaint in court. The filing of the complaint does not itself stay enforcement of this order. The agency may grant a stay, or the reviewing court may order one, upon the appropriate terms.

Appeals are generally filed in the Providence County Superior Court. However, appeals affecting or concerning children under the age of 18 and/or appeals of a DCYF action may need to be filed in Providence Family Court. If you have any questions about which court a complaint for appeal should be made, you should seek the advice of an attorney, Rhode Island Legal Services, or the clerk of the court where you wish to file your appeal. The courts' contact information can be found on the judiciary's website (<https://www.courts.ri.gov>). Copies of the appeal must be served upon all parties in your case within 10 days of the filing of your appeal.

If you exercise any of these appellate rights, please inform the EOHHS appeals office of this so we can prepare a copy of the record for the court. You can contact the Appeals Office at OHHS.AppealsOffice@ohhs.ri.gov, 401.462.2132 (Phone), 401.462.0458 (Fax), or at 3 West Road, Virks Building, Cranston, RI 02908.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I mailed a true copy of the foregoing to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], via regular mail, postage prepaid. Copies were sent via email to
Agency Representatives Kimberly Seebeck, Brittny Medeiros, Iwona Ramian, Esq., Denise
Tatro, Kimberly Rauch, Jenna Simeone, Kirsten Cornford, and the DHS Policy Office on this
13th day of March, 2026.

Rebecca