

STATE OF VERMONT

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

In re) Fair Hearing No. 14,444

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Appeal of)

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INTRODUCTION

The petitioner appeals the fact that her Food Stamps are only \$10 per month. The issue is whether the Department's calculations are correct in light of the petitioner's income and expenses.⁽¹⁾

FINDINGS OF FACT

The facts are not in dispute. The petitioner stated that her monthly income from Social Security and SSI is \$549, and that she pays \$151 in rent for a Section 8 subsidized apartment, heat included. The petitioner stated that her additional monthly expenses are \$15 a month for electricity, \$5 for cable TV, \$18 for phone, and \$15 for over-the-counter medications.

ORDER

The Department's decision is affirmed.

REASONS

It is clear that under the pertinent regulations the Department has correctly calculated the petitioner's Food Stamps. See F.S.M. § 273.10 and Procedures Manual § P-2590 C. The Board is thus bound by law to affirm the Department's decision. 3 V.S.A. § 3091(d) and Fair Hearing Rule No. 17.

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1. The petitioner filed a request for a fair hearing when she received an adverse notice from the Social Security Administration concerning her SSI. A hearing was conducted by phone on August 21, 1996, at which time the hearing officer explained to the petitioner that she would have to contact the Social Security Administration to appeal any action affecting her SSI benefits. At this time the petitioner stated that she also felt she did not get enough Food Stamps.