

**BEFORE THE ALASKA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS ON REFERRAL
BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**

In the Matter of)

F.X)

) OAH No. 25-2394-SNA
)

DECISION

I. Introduction

F.X sought a hearing following denial of renewal of her SNAP benefits by the Division of Public Assistance. A telephonic hearing was held on August 13, 2025. Ms. X represented herself; Ms. Marie Thirlwell represented the Division. Ms. X stated she had received copies of the Division’s exhibits and had no objections to their admission into evidence. The record closed at the end of the hearing.

II. Facts and Discussion

The facts are not disputed, only the applicability of the law to the facts. Ms. X was notified that her household was no longer eligible (denied recertification) for SNAP benefits on June 12, 2025 because her household resources exceeded the eligibility limits. The count of household resources included a certificate of deposit savings account now holding more than \$8,000. Ms. X objected to this determination because the certificate of deposit savings account, although it was in her name, was held for her minor son Y____, as a savings account holding his permanent fund dividends until he was 18 years old. Ms. X argued that, because she could not access the funds during the term of the certificate (currently six months) without penalty, and because it was for her son, that the account should not be considered a “household resource.”

7 C.F.R. Ch. II § 273.8(c) provides that, when calculating household resources for SNAP eligibility, states must include in household resources “money in checking and savings accounts, saving certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments as specified in § 273.9(c)(8).” Here, the certificate of deposit savings account is in Ms. X’s name and, while meant to serve as a means of saving for her son’s future, is nonetheless clearly within the federal definition of household resources. If the money were in a qualified ABLE program, or a Section 529A account, the money would be excluded from the household resources calculation. 7 C.F.R. Ch. II, § 273.8(e)(2)(ii). However, while Ms. X is holding the funds in the certificate savings for a purpose similar to a 529A account, it is not actually in such an account. States are required to

apply the uniform national resource standards in determining eligibility for SNAP benefits. 7 C.F.R. Ch. II, § 273.8(a). The State of Alaska may not exclude the funds derived from Y____'s permanent fund dividends; therefore, the amount in the certificate of deposit savings account held by Ms. X for Y____ must be included in household resources.

III. Conclusion

The determination of the Division denying recertification of SNAP eligibility is
AFFIRMED.

Dated: August 20, 2025

Signed

Kristin S Knudsen
Administrative Law Judge

Adoption

The undersigned, by delegation from the Commissioner of Health, adopts this Decision, under the authority of AS 44.64.060(e)(1), as the final administrative determination in this matter.

Judicial review of this decision may be obtained by filing an appeal in the Alaska Superior Court in accordance with Alaska R. App. P. 602(a)(2) within 30 days after the date of this decision.

DATED this 10th day of September, 2025.

By: Signed
Name: Kristin S Knudsen
Title: Administrative Law Judge

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