



State of New Jersey

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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 17540-17 M.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C151565015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits on recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits contending that she failed to provide information required for the recertification process. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for December 19, 2017, but was adjourned at Petitioner's request. On January 9, 2018, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On January 23, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner filed an application for recertification of her SNAP benefits on October 10, 2017, and indicated she was self-employed. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-3 at 3. On September 20, 2017, the Agency provided Petitioner with a "Request for Verification," listing all the documents required to determine Petitioner's eligibility for SNAP benefits on recertification. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.22(c)(3), -9.1(h). However, Petitioner failed to provide all the required information, and on November 13, 2017, the Agency denied SNAP benefits to Petitioner, effective November 1, 2017. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.22(c)(1), -6.20, -9.2(c)(5). Petitioner admitted that she did not provide all the required information to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-5. Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner failed to comply with requisite program requirements by not providing all necessary documentation to verify all her available income and resources. See Initial Decision at 5-6. As such, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-7; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.20, -9.2(c)(5). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the 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 final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson

Director

JAN 30 2018

