



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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Assistant Commissioner

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 07702-21 E.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C066882016 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 7, 2021, the Honorable Jude-Anthony Tiscornia, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 12, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits at some time in February, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2. The record further reflects that the Agency sent Petitioner an email on March 1, 2021, requesting the information and documentation needed. *Ibid.* When the requested documentation was not received, the Agency issued a denial notice to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2, 3. Petitioner admits that she failed to check her email for several week, and it is for that reason that she failed to respond to the Agency's request for information and documentation, but she contends that she was waiting for an actual letter from the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2, 3. Based on the evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.19. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits in her current county of residence, but must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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



Officially approved final version.

OCT 21 2021

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

