



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
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 08069-21 A.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C110302006 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits, at recertification. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits at recertification, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine continued eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 20 2021, the Honorable Kathleen M. Calemno, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 25, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner participated in her recertification interview for continued SNAP benefits on May 13, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2, 3. The record further reflects that Petitioner's SNAP household consists of Petitioner and her two adult sons, who Petitioner indicated were attending college. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 18. Following the telephone interview, the Agency sent Petitioner a request, in writing, to verify the student aid and enrollment of Petitioner's sons in college. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 17. Thereafter, when no verification had been submitted, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Contact on June 24, 2021, again seeking verification of Petitioner's sons' enrollment in college. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 16. On August 3, 2021, when Petitioner had not provided the requested documentation to the Agency, a notice was issued indicating that Petitioner's SNAP case would close effective on September 1, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. Petitioner herself admitted that she had not provided the requested documentation, and had not advised the Agency of purported difficulty in getting the requested information. See Initial Decision at 3-5. Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified in order to determine continued eligibility, and as such, the Agency's closure of Petitioner's SNAP benefits case was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4, 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.16. 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.

DEC - 3 2021

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

