



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 08188-21 M.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C048277019 (SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION 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 verifying her household composition. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 26, 2021, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 18, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on July 28, 2021, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits, at which time she indicated that her SNAP household was comprised of herself and her five children. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10-11. However, while processing Petitioner's SNAP application, the Agency discovered that the father of four of Petitioner's children, W.F., may be residing in the household, and as such, the Agency started an investigation. See Initial Decision at 2. Although Petitioner claimed that W.F. was not residing with her, the Agency had determined through its investigation that W.F. was indeed residing in Petitioner's household. Id. at 2-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 34-38. Accordingly, the Agency required Petitioner to provide documentation verifying her household composition to include W.F., or to provide proof that W.F. resided elsewhere. See Initial Decision at 2, 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.1, -2.13(b), -2.14, -2.18(a), -2.19, -2.20(a) -2.22(c). Having received no response to its request for documentation, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, for failing to provide the requested documentation. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1 at 32-33, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14. The ALJ found that Petitioner's testimony, claiming that W.F. does not reside in her household, was questionable and inconsistent with the Agency's investigation, and agreed with the Agency's determination that W.F. should be included in Petitioner's household for purposes of determining SNAP benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2, 4-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 34-38, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.1. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner was required to provide documentation, verifying her household composition, that she had failed to provide such documentation, and therefore, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 32-33, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.15, -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.

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

Officially approved final version.

**DEC - 2 2021**

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

