



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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 16275-24 C.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C568221002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's the denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she failed to provide the Agency with all required documentation needed to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 22, 2024, the Honorable Kimberly K. Holmes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 25, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, providing a detailed and well thought out analysis, applying law to fact, regarding the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 1-6. Specifically, the ALJ found that, despite numerous notifications from the Agency, Petitioner had failed to provide all requested documentation to the Agency sufficient for it to assess her eligibility for EA benefits, without good cause. Id. at 2-5; see also Exhibits P-1 through P-4, R-1, R-2, R-4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also Exhibit R-3 at 7-8, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a)(5), 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, the ALJ in this matter addresses a purported issue with Petitioner's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. See Initial Decision at 5. However, the transmittal in this matter does not indicate a transmitted issue with respect to any adverse action taken against Petitioner's SNAP benefits, and as such, is not addressed in this Final Agency Decision. Petitioner is advised that, should she have an issue regarding her SNAP benefits, that she may request a separate fair hearing on that issue.

By way of further comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for EA benefits, but is advised that she must provide the Agency with all requested/required documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -6.1(c)(2). Further, the Agency is instructed to assist Petitioner with acquiring such documentation, as appropriate. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a).

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



Officially approved final version. December 04, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

