



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **01134-24 C.N.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C040417012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, 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 May 3, 2024, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On May 17, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that, after Petitioner had been approved for SNAP benefits, the Agency learned through a new hire match, that Petitioner had become employed. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. As a result, on October 12, 2023, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide copies of paystubs, in order to determine the correct SNAP benefits allotment for the household, or, if the information was incorrect and Petitioner had not started new employment, Petitioner was to advise the Agency accordingly. *Ibid.* The October 12, 2023, notice further provided that the requested verification information was to be provided within ten days. See Exhibit R-1. The requested verification information was not provided, and as such, on November 21, 2023, the Agency advised Petitioner that her SNAP benefits case would close effective December 1, 2023. See Exhibit R-2. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid.* Furthermore, a SNAP household shall be determined ineligible for continued SNAP benefits when it fails to cooperate in a subsequent review for eligibility. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.16. Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ found the Agency's evidence credible, that Petitioner had failed to provide the requested verification documentation. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that, as Petitioner had not provided the requested information to determine continued eligibility, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.16, -2.19, -2.20. 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, if she has not already done so, 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. June 04, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

