



## State of New Jersey

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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 **02663-24 C.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C126949008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. 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 timely provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On April 26, 2024, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On April 30, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner filed an application for SNAP benefits on August 17, 2023. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the earned income information provided in the application, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification on August 22, 2023, requesting the four most recent paystubs by September 6, 2023, together with other additional information. *Id.* at 3-4. None of the documents requested were provided to the Agency by the September 6, 2023, deadline. *Id.* at 4. However, due to an Agency error, Petitioner's SNAP benefits case was opened on September 18, 2023, and Petitioner erroneously received SNAP benefits from September 18, 2023, through February 1, 2024. *Ibid.* On January 18, 2024, the Agency issued Petitioner an adverse action notice terminating Petitioner's SNAP benefits effective February 1, 2024, for failure to provide requested information necessary to determine eligibility. *Ibid.* Agency records indicate that Petitioner did not submit the requested verification information until March 8, 2024. *Ibid.* 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.* Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not timely provided the requested information required to be verified to determine eligibility, as the requested verification documentation was not submitted for over six months after the submission deadline, and as such, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -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 in the future, 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

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

