



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 14154-23 N.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C182820003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, as it contended that Petitioner failed to timely provide documentation necessary to process her application for SNAP benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. The hearing was initially scheduled for February 26, 2024, but was adjourned at the request of Petitioner, with consent of the Agency. On the rescheduled date of March 13, 2024, the Honorable Joan M. Burke, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ,") held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record then closed. On March 26, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFRIM the Agency action.

Here, the record reflects that on September 8, 2023, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-A. In order to continue processing Petitioner's application, on September 25, 2023, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide, no later than October 5, 2023, copies of pay stubs for the last 30 days, or a letter of separation from Petitioner's employer. Ibid. The ALJ found that Petitioner submitted some of the requested documents, but did not provide her last paid date or reason for separation, as requested, by October 5, 2023; accordingly, by notice dated November 17, 2023, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-C. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits was appropriate, and should be affirmed, as she had failed to comply with the Agency's request to provide all requested documentation. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-C, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(c)(3), (4). I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to re-apply for SNAP benefits, but is reminded that she must timely comply with the Agency's requests for documentation and information required to determine eligibility.

By way of further comment, a subsequent adverse action notice, dated December 28, 2023, with a back dated effective denial date of November 17, 2023, was also placed in the record. See Exhibit R-E. However, as the adverse action notice dated November 17, 2023, with an effective date of September 8, 2023, see Exhibit R-C, is the one from which Petitioner appealed, and therefore the subject of this fair hearing, the subsequent adverse action notice is not addressed in this Final Agency Decision.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, and the Agency's action is hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version. May 02, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

