



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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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 **05453-24 R.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C171444015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application at recertification for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits at recertification, 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 ("OAL") for a hearing. On May 17, 2024, the Honorable Allison Friedman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On May 31, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner completed her recertification application for SNAP benefits on January 30, 2024, listing eighteen resources. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3. Thereafter, a telephone interview was conducted with Petitioner's spouse, J.G., on February 2, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. As of February 2, 2024, verification had not been provided for a number of the bank accounts listed as resources. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Following the telephone interview, neither Petitioner, nor her spouse, took any action to provide the requested information, and therefore, the Agency denied Petitioner's recertification application on March 4, 2024. *Id.* at 3. In the denial notice, Petitioner was provided an additional 30 days to provide the missing verifications, but none were forthcoming. *Ibid.* On May 14, 2024, three days before the fair hearing in this matter, Petitioner's spouse provided missing verification documentation. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit P-1. 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, nor had any good cause been provided for failing to do so, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner at recertification was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; 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, but must timely 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 26, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

