



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 **01963-24 R.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C155796006 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's applications for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits for failure to provide information necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On March 27, 2024, the Honorable Kathleen M. Calemno, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On April 3, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with the requested documentation it required to determine her eligibility for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 5-6. The record reflects that, in response to Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and SNAP applications on November 28, 2023, the Agency had mailed, on November 30, 2023, Petitioner a list of documents and information that needed to be submitted to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2, see also Exhibit R-1. On December 27, 2023, the Agency again requested verifications. Ibid. Petitioner was provided ten additional days to submit the requested verifications, after which the Agency issued denial notifications on January 12, 2024. Ibid. The denial was sent to Petitioner's last known address, which Petitioner had left on December 28, 2023 without providing any new address. Ibid.

At the hearing, Petitioner testified that she lost her identification while at the Agency and that she was unable to obtain the necessary verifications without possession of her own identification. See Initial Decision at 3. However, the ALJ did not find Petitioner's testimony to be persuasive. See Initial Decision at 6.

As a result, the ALJ found that the Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with the required documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's eligibility for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits, and accordingly, concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's applications for said benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.11, 2.14, 2.19, 2.21, 2.22, 2.27(e); N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2. 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 WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits, if she has not already done so, but is advised that she must provide all documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the applications and any required documentation.

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

Officially approved final version. May 08, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

