



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 **12480-24 S.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S488058012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of his Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits and subsequent proration of his SNAP benefits amount for the month of May, 2024. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits for failure to provide information and documentation necessary to determine continued eligibility and contends that the prorated calculation of benefits for May, 2024 was correct. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On November 8, 2024, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On November 14, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination and the amount of the prorated SNAP benefits for May, 2024.

Here, the record reflects that, Petitioner completed an Interim Reporting Form ("IRF") for his SNAP benefits on January 2, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Following submission of the IRF to the Agency, Petitioner was questioned as to how he was able to afford his rent, and on March 25, 2024, a 10-Day Letter requesting rental information by April 5, 2024, was sent to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner provided no information by the April 5, 2024 deadline, however, on May 6, 2024, he provided a letter to the Agency confirming he was unable to provide information from his landlord due to cellular phone issues and medical issues. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3. On May 10, 2024, the Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4. On that same date, Petitioner went to the Agency office and provided his landlord's telephone number which allowed the Agency to contact Petitioner's landlord, confirm that Petitioner's rent payments were in arrears, and complete an eligibility determination for Petitioner which led to reapproving Petitioner for SNAP benefits effective May 10, 2024. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-6, R-7. Petitioner was approved on May 10, 2024, and Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits of \$973 were prorated in the amount of \$681 to represent benefits from May 10 through May 31, 2024. Ibid.

The ALJ in this matter found that Petitioner had failed to timely provide the Agency with the required documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's continued eligibility for SNAP benefits, and accordingly, concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.22, -2.27. I agree. In addition, the ALJ found that the Agency's calculation of prorated SNAP benefits for the month of May, 2024, in the amount of \$681 was correct. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.5. I also 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.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determinations are AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version. November 21, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

