



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 11475-19 K.F.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C031829017 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's termination of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to Petitioner's failure to verify her address. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 16, 2019, the Honorable Catherine A. Tuohy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On September 26, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that the Agency mailed to Petitioner, a SNAP benefits recipient, several documents which were returned to the Agency and marked as either "Return to Sender," "Unable to Forward," or "Not Deliverable as Addressed." See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Because Petitioner's mail was being returned to the Agency with no forwarding address, the Agency, via a Request for Contact ("RFC") letter dated June 3, 2019, requested that Petitioner provide verification of her current address. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10. The RFC letter also noted that Petitioner had 10 days to provide the requested information. Ibid. The RFC letter was also returned to the Agency, and Petitioner never provided the requested information. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, on June 18, 2019, the Agency notified Petitioner that her SNAP benefits would be terminated, effective July 1, 2019. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19(f), -3.3(a), -3.4. The ALJ found, and Petitioner herself acknowledged, that Petitioner had received the June 18, 2019, notice from the Agency advising that her SNAP benefits were being terminated because her mail was being returned to the Agency with no forwarding address. See Initial Decision at 4-5. The ALJ further found that no good cause existed for Petitioner's failure to provide the requested verification. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19(f), -3.3(a), -3.4. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.



As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to re-apply for SNAP benefits, but is reminded that she must timely provide all documentation and/or information requested by the Agency.

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

Officially approved final version.

OCT - 3 2019

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

