



## 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 15309-24 C.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C859471007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner challenges the termination of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits because it contended that Petitioner had moved out of Essex county. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 25, 2025, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On February 26, 2025, 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 ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, the ALJ's Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED, based on the discussion below.

Regulatory authority applicable to SNAP benefit cases, requires that a household must be a resident of the county in which it files an application for participation. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.2.

Here, Petitioner received SNAP benefits from Essex County until she moved, in September 2024, to Hudson County. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that SNAP benefits cannot be transferred between counties, and sent notice explaining same to Petitioner on September 4, 2024. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1. The Agency notified Petitioner that she should reapply for SNAP benefits with Hudson County. Ibid. Petitioner contended that the Agency should be responsible for transferring her SNAP benefits to Hudson County. See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ found that Petitioner currently resides in Hudson County, and therefore, does not meet the resident requirement for SNAP eligibility within Essex County, and that, if she wishes to continue to receive SNAP benefits, she must apply for SNAP benefits with the Hudson County Board of Social Services, who will determine her eligibility for same. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.2(a) (stating that a SNAP household is considered a resident of the county in which they actually live). I agree.

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



Officially approved final version. March 14, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

