



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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Commissioner

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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 **02502-25 C.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C114336007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner challenges the denial of the replacement of electronically stolen Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits she alleges were stolen from her Electronic Benefits Transfer ("EBT") card. Respondent Agency asserts that Petitioner's SNAP benefits were not stolen by skimming, scamming, or other electronic theft. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. A telephonic plenary hearing was scheduled for March 17, 2025, before the Honorable Nanci G. Stokes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). On that date, Petitioner called into the scheduled telephonic hearing, and during a prehearing discussion regarding the denial of replacement SNAP benefits, and before going on the record, Petitioner disconnected the call and failed to call back. See Initial Decision at 2. Further, the record reflects that Petitioner had not contacted the OAL since that hearing date, nor otherwise provided any indication that she wished to proceed. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had abandoned her request for a fair hearing. Ibid. As a result, on March 19, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, dismissing Petitioner's appeal. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter. As such, the Agency's November 22, 2024, denial of replacement SNAP benefits to Petitioner, remains in force as issued.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby DISMISSED with prejudice.

Officially approved final version. March 27, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

