



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

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 **02718-25 D.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C137143002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner's countable household income exceeded the maximum permissible level for receipt of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. A telephonic plenary hearing was scheduled for April 14, 2025, before the Honorable Irene Jones, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). On that date, Northeast Legal Services, on behalf of Petitioner, requested an adjournment and the matter was rescheduled for April 21, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2. On April 21, 2025, Petitioner requested a second adjournment to obtain legal counsel, representing that Northeast Legal Services was no longer representing her due to her belief that the attorney was not adequately prepared to represent her. Ibid. The ALJ denied the adjournment request, finding insufficient good cause to further delay the hearing. Ibid. Petitioner refused to proceed, asserted her right to legal representation, and then terminated her call. Ibid. Based on the foregoing the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned her fair hearing, and, on May 5, 2025, 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 December 20, 2024, termination of 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. May 13, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

