



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*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 11166-25 J.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C159681002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On October 2, 2025, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On October 9, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received from Petitioner on October 22, 2025.

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.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner was in receipt of SNAP benefits when the Agency was informed that she was a business owner and began an investigation to determine whether Petitioner was operating, and generating income, from her business. See Initial Decision at 2. During the course of the investigation, the Agency investigators made a home visit to discuss the matter with Petitioner, discovered a bank account which had not been reported to the Agency, and made an inquiry for services via Petitioner's business website to which she responded. See Initial Decision at 3-4. On April 2, 2025, the Agency notified Petitioner that was required to submit profit and loss statements for the prior three months, as well as the prior three months business and personal bank statements, and her 2023-2024 tax return. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner failed to respond to the April 2, 2025 request. Ibid. On April 29, 2025, the Agency notified Petitioner that her SNAP case would close, effective June 1, 2025, due to her failure to provide the requested information. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1.

On May 1, 2025, Petitioner submitted a letter stating that her business was not generating any income. See Initial Decision at 3. On May 5, 2025, the Agency notified Petitioner that, in order to determine eligibility for benefits, Petitioner needed to submit her tax returns for 2023 and 2024. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner failed to respond to the May 5, 2025 email from the Agency. Ibid. Petitioner's SNAP case was closed effective June 1, 2025. See Initial Decision at 3. Petitioner testified that she submitted all of the documentation required. See Initial Decision at 4-5.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. Ibid. Following presentation of testimonial and



documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the requested information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, if she has not already done so, but must timely provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the applications and any required documentation.

By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version. November 07, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

