



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 **02961-25 J.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C276106020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner 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 10, 2025 before the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). During the pre-hearing conference with the ALJ and the parties, Petitioner participated in a discussion between herself and the Agency, and was provided an opportunity to give a brief statement before the fair hearing began on the record. See Initial Decision at 2. Prior to opening the matter on the record, Petitioner stopped responding, and the ALJ determined that only two individuals remained on the call; the Agency representative and the ALJ. Ibid. Petitioner did not attempt to dial back in for the hearing, nor attempt to contact the OAL or ALJ within the following twenty-four hours to explain why she disconnected the call. Ibid. Based on the foregoing the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned her fair hearing, and, on April 21, 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, denial 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 08, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

