



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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 **08988-24 L.U.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C245228016 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits for the period of April, 2024 through June, 2024. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits for that time period because Petitioner had failed to provide information necessary to determine eligibility, specifically transaction information for his Cash App. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. A pre-hearing conference for the matter was held on November 7, 2024, followed by an additional pre-hearing conference on December 9, 2024, at which time it was agreed that no hearing was necessary as the dispute was purely legal. The Honorable Matthew G. Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), allowed for the submissions of argument and documentation through January 7, 2025, at which time the record was closed. On January 13, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on April 12, 2024, for a household of one person. See Initial Decision at 2. Thereafter, the Agency sent a Request for Contact Form on April 25, 2024, requesting information from various sports betting/online gambling applications as well as the most recently monthly statement from Petitioner's Cash App. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit RA-7. Petitioner refused to submit the information requested from his Cash App and the Agency denied Petitioner's SNAP application on May 13, 2024 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, for a failure to cooperate. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit RA-6. The Agency contends that the information from Petitioner's Cash App is needed to determine Petitioner's income eligibility for SNAP benefits, specifically because Cash App can be used for third-party payments such as self-employment income and gambling transaction winnings. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87- 5.1, -5.2, -5.5(a)(9). Petitioner contends that the information contained within his Cash App records is not "questionable" pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.20(a) and that, as he is not required to prove resource eligibility for SNAP benefits, he should not have to provide his Cash App records. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see N.J.A.C. 10:87-4.1(a). The ALJ found that, in order for an applicant to qualify for SNAP benefits, the applicant must meet eligibility standards including reporting all sources of income during the application process. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.2. Importantly, the ALJ notes, income is very broadly defined and included within the definition of unearned income is "(a)ll other direct money payments from any source which can be construed to be a gain or benefit to the household." See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.5(a)(9). As a result, the ALJ found that the Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with the required documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's eligibility for SNAP benefits, and accordingly, concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for said benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 7-8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.11, -2.14, -2.15, -2.16, -2.19, -2.20, -2.21, -2.22. I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner's counsel on January 21, 2025.



As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, if he has not already done so, but is advised that he must provide all documentation necessary 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. February 20, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

