



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 17501-24 R.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C465201004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits for failure to provide information necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On February 4, 2025, the Honorable Carl V. Buck III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was then held open to allow for the submission of additional documentation and closed on February 13, 2025. On February 27, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on September 13, 2024, and thereafter, on September 23, 2024, the Agency attempted to reach Petitioner by telephone for an interview, but was unable to contact Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. On October 1, 2024, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification asking for various documentation including veteran's disability payment information, pension information, education loan/financial aid/tuition information, work study payment information, educational scholarship/class schedule information, child care expenses, household composition, utility bills, and social security number. Ibid. The information was due by October 11, 2024, however, the Agency sent Petitioner a Notification Form on October 8, 2024, denying her SNAP benefits effective September 13, 2024, but including information providing an additional thirty (30) days to submit the requested verifications to complete her application. See Initial Decision at 3-4. The Agency representative testified that, as of the date of the hearing, Petitioner had not provided the requested documentation. See Initial Decision at 4. Petitioner testified, and submitted documentary evidence, that she did not receive a call on September 23, 2024, from the Agency and further testified that she received correspondence from the Agency many weeks after they were mailed. Ibid. Additionally, she testified that she had mailed the information to the Agency on two different occasions, however documentary proof was not provided and the Agency representative maintained that required documentation, necessary to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, had not been received. Ibid. Accordingly, 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 5-7; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.15, -2.19, -2.20, -2.21, -2.22. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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 she has not already done so, but is advised that she 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.

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

Officially approved final version. March 14, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

