



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

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 **12807-24 T.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C089097015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

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. The matter was originally scheduled for a hearing on November 8, 2024, however, Petitioner failed to appear. The hearing was rescheduled and, on December 5, 2024, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until December 9, 2024, to allow for the submission of additional documents from Petitioner and then closed on December 10, 2024. On December 20, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on July 5, 2024, on behalf of her household, which consists of herself and her adult daughter. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-5. Thereafter, the Agency interviewed Petitioner and she reported to the Agency representative that her daughter was employed as of July 6, 2024, and that Petitioner had last worked June 26, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2. On July 10, 2024, the Agency requested Petitioner provide copies of July 2024 paystubs for Petitioner and her daughter and statements as to why they were no longer employed, as well as their last date worked to the Agency by July 19, 2024. Ibid. Petitioner's daughter sent a letter to the Agency explaining why she was no longer employed which was received by the Agency on July 22, 2024. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2. Information obtained from Petitioner's daughters' paystub indicated her last day of work was June 23, 2024. Id., see also Exhibit R-3. On August 5, 2024, the Agency issued a denial notice to Petitioner, as the deadline for submission of the requested information, necessary to establish benefit eligibility, had lapsed and Petitioner had not supplied the requested information. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner testified that she sent the requested documents to the Agency via email, however, at the time of, and subsequent to the hearing, she was unable to produce proof of the email and/or alleged response from the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3. The Agency representative testified that he did attempt to locate any email from Petitioner to several of the Agency email addresses, however, no email was located. Ibid. 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 4-5; 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.

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. January 17, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

