



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 **04453-26 A.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C162853001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits because Petitioner failed to participate in the required interview. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 15, 2026, the Honorable Elaine B. Frick, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 27, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on January 21, 2026, and, on the same date, the Agency provided Petitioner a Certification Appointment for NJ SNAP Benefits notice, indicating a scheduled telephone interview for January 27, 2026, between 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1. The Agency attempted to reach Petitioner via telephone on January 27, 2026, however, Petitioner did not answer. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. On January 27, 2026, the Agency mailed a Notice of Missed Telephone Interview, indicating that Petitioner needed to contact the Agency to reschedule her interview. Ibid. On February 20, 2026, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, indicating that she had failed to participate in the required interview. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not participated in the required interview, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.18, -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.

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

Officially approved final version. June 10, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

