



State of New Jersey

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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 **05524-26 L.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C166810020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits at recertification. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits at recertification, contending that she failed to provide verifications as requested and required to determine her eligibility for continued SNAP benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On May 22, 2026, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 12, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, the ALJ's Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED, based on the discussion below.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner's SNAP case was due for recertification, and the Agency notified Petitioner via a Notice of Expiration of NJ SNAP benefits on December 1, 2025, that her recertification period would end on January 31, 2026. See Exhibit R-1. Petitioner completed the SNAP recertification application on December 15, 2025, and on December 16, 2025, a Request for Verification form was sent by the Agency requesting Petitioner's most recent thirty days of paystubs, which was due to the Agency by December 26, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Thereafter, Petitioner submitted some of her earned income information, however, a portion of the documentation submitted was illegible, which led the Agency to send an additional Request for Verification on January 23, 2026, specifically requesting her most recent thirty days of paystubs, as well as a letter as to when she ended her employment with one of her two employers. Ibid. Petitioner did attempt to provide some documentation to the Agency; however, it was illegible and the Agency was unable to determine Petitioner's earned income from the documents submitted. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency correctly closed Petitioner's SNAP benefits case at recertification. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1 et seq. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, if she has not already done so, but must timely provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the application and any required documentation.

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



Officially approved final version. August 27, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

