



# State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
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 **01657-26 L.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S753392009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM 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 information 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 February 26, 2026, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On March 10, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner completed a recertification interview on November 24, 2025, at which time she informed the Agency that she was employed. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Following the interview, on that same date, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification requesting further information and documentation, specifically paystubs for the past thirty days to establish Petitioner's gross monthly income, or alternatively a letter from her employer stating her last date worked and the reason for separation. *Ibid.* In addition, the Request for Verification requested a living/eating arrangement letter from Petitioner's niece indicating Petitioner's portion of the rent. *Ibid.* Petitioner provided the Agency with a letter from her niece, however, she failed to submit any paystubs to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3. On December 29, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's SNAP benefits recertification application, due to her failure to provide the requested thirty days of paystubs. *Ibid.* Petitioner testified that she never submitted the requested documentation. See Initial Decision at 4.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid.* Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the requested information required to be verified to determine continued eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner at recertification was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20, -2.27 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1 et seq. 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 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 applications and any required documentation.

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

Officially approved final version. April 01, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

