



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 7906-14 J.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C379610 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his recertification for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's recertification for benefits as it contended that Petitioner failed to provide copies of requested necessary documentation, specifically copies of Petitioner's paystubs. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 14, 2014, the Honorable Joan Bedrin Murray, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On July 28, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ concluded that while Petitioner had made a good faith effort to obtain copies of his paystubs, "his effort fell short of complying with the Agency's verification requirement in that he did not confirm the delivery of said paystubs" See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ further stated that while Petitioner presumed the Agency had received copies of the paystubs from a payroll service via facsimile, Petitioner should have undertaken measures to ensure the requested documentation was received, as well as taking alternate means to obtain the information himself, so that he could have personally verified that the information was both received and accurate. See *id.* at 3-4.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

AUG 19 2014

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director