



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 01243-19 R.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C071846003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits due to Petitioner's failure to provide requested documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 20, 2019, the Honorable Susan L. Olgiati, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On March 6, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on December 12, 2018, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 11. On December 17, 2018, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide letters of financial support from various individuals within ten days, or if she needed assistance, to contact the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.22(a), -2.22(c)(1). Petitioner never provided the requested information and, as a result, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits on January 11, 2019. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27. Petitioner testified that she was not receiving support from the individuals on a regular basis, and that she only provided their names because the Agency required her to do so. See Initial Decision at 4. After assessing the credibility of the witnesses, the determined that the Agency's basis for seeking the requested documentation was reasonable, and therefore, as Petitioner had failed to provide said documentation, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-6. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and 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 is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is hereby AFFIRMED.



Officially approved final version.

MAR 12 2019

Natasha Johnson
Director

