



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 03776-21 A.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C143192001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 4, 2021, the Honorable Jeffrey R. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 8, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on February 25, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2. The record further reflects that, when Petitioner failed to submit requested documentation, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Contact, regarding the information and documentation needed. *Id.* at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-2. When the requested documentation was not received by the date specified, the Agency issued a denial notice to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. While Petitioner acknowledged receiving the Request for Contact, and maintained that she had submitted all requested verification in a timely fashion, she was not able to substantiate her representations. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified in order to determine eligibility, 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 Exhibit R-1 at 1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.19. 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 in her current county of residence, but must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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



Officially approved final version.

JUL - 6 2021

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

