



## State of New Jersey

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*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 02445-21 L.E.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S744353009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

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. A hearing was initially scheduled for April 22, 2021, at 9:00 AM. When Petitioner failed to call in for the hearing, the matter was marked as a "failure to appear." However, later that day, Petitioner sent an email to the Agency, stating that she could not get through on the phone in the morning, and the matter was then rescheduled. On May 19, 2021, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open for the submission of additional documentation by the parties. The Agency submitted additional documents, while Petitioner did not, and the record then closed on May 26, 2021.

On June 4, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits, for herself only, on January 15, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4. The record further reflects that the Agency was unable to reach Petitioner at either of the two telephone numbers Petitioner had provided in order to verify information that was needed for eligibility, and on January 22, 2021, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 4; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19. Petitioner admitted receiving the denial notice, and asserted that she had tried a number of times to telephone the Agency regarding her application, as well as reapplying for benefits online, but Petitioner did not submit any documentation to corroborate her representations. See Initial Decision at 3, 4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified 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; see also Exhibit R-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, 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.

JUN 29 2021

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

