



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 **07799-23 F.V.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C091197001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending no separate household. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 6, 2023, the Honorable Robert D. Herman, Administrative Law Judge, held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents into evidence. The record remained open to allow the parties the opportunity to submit additional documents, and with no further submissions having been received, the record then closed on November 8, 2023.

On November 22, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to accurately report her household composition. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 3, 33-34. Further, the ALJ found that the Agency have provided sufficient evidence which demonstrated that Petitioner's allegedly estranged husband, W.M.-C., was still residing in her home. See Initial Decision at 4-5, 6-7; see also Exhibit R-1 at 33-34. Although Petitioner claimed that her husband had not been living in her household during the time at issue, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to substantiate that claim. See Initial Decision at 6. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had properly determined that W.M.-C. was an undisclosed member of the household, who should have been disclosed on Petitioner's April 6, 2023, SNAP benefits application, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 7; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.11, -2.14. 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 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. December 21, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

