



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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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 **05442-23 K.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S533777012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine continued eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 27, 2023, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On August 4, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner was sent an Interim Reporting Form ("IRF") to complete for continued receipt of SNAP benefits, which he submitted on January 31, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(a)(3). That submitted IRF reflected a change in household income, but with no verification of said income. See Exhibit R-1 at 2. The Agency had also requested verification of Petitioner's spouse's income, as the result of a new hire match, or verification that the information was incorrect. *Id.* at 6; see also Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner sent a letter denying that Petitioner's spouse was working, and thereafter the Agency closed Petitioner's SNAP case for failure to provide information. See Exhibit R-1 at 5, 8. On March 1, 2023, Petitioner sent another letter, again indicating that the information pertaining to Petitioner's spouse's employment was incorrect. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7. On March 23, 2023, Petitioner spoke with an Agency representative, who advised that the employment verifications were still required, for both Petitioner and Petitioner's wife. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9. The ALJ in this matter states that, as of the date of the hearing in this matter, the verifications for both Petitioner and his wife had yet to be supplied. See Initial Decision at 5. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid.* Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ found the Agency's evidence credible, and no documentation to support Petitioner's contentions had been presented. See Initial Decision at 7. As Petitioner had not provided verification of the employment declared on the IRF, and also had failed to provide verification for his spouse, either confirming or disproving the new hire match, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the



requested information required to be verified in order to determine continued eligibility, and as such, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. Id. at 8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. 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 he 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. August 22, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

