



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 11588-22 S.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S795533009** (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner challenges the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits due to an alleged failure to provide information pertaining to Petitioner's son's employment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A telephonic plenary hearing was scheduled for February 22, 2023, before the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). On February 23, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's denial.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits.

The record in this matter reflects that, on February 22, 2023, Petitioner and the Agency's representative appeared for the scheduled hearing via telephone. See Initial Decision at 2. While the ALJ was conferencing the matter with the parties prior to commencement of the hearing, Petitioner hung up from the conversation. Ibid. Petitioner did not attempt to call back to rejoin the conference or proceed with the hearing, or contact the ALJ's chambers to advise the reason for disconnecting from the call. Ibid. Accordingly, the ALJ determined that Petitioner had abandoned his request for a hearing in the matter and affirmed the Agency's denial. Ibid.

Based on the foregoing, I find that Petitioner abandoned his appeal in this matter and, therefore, I affirm the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits and dismiss the case.

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



Officially approved final version. March 28, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

