



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 **03759-23 S.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C469451004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

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 for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 18, 2023, the Honorable William T. Cooper, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 8, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner was instructed during his initial phone interview on November 17, 2022, that he must provide verifications regarding his residency to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2, 4. Thereafter, the Agency sent a notification dated November 17, 2022, and received by Petitioner on November 24, 2022, the cover page of which, incorrectly stated that verifications were due November 17, 2022, yet the verification form correctly stated that the requested information was due on November 27, 2022. Ibid. Due to the typographical error on the cover page, Petitioner did not provide documents and attempted to contact the Agency to clarify, but maintains that they were extremely unhelpful. Ibid. By notice dated November 21, 2022, Petitioner was advised that he was granted SNAP benefits for a part of the month of November, 2022, and was further advised that his SNAP benefits would terminate, effective December 1, 2022, if required verifications were not received. Id. at 5. Petitioner failed to provide the required verification pertaining to his residency, and by notice dated December 8, 2022, the Agency advised Petitioner that his SNAP benefits were terminated on December 1, 2022, due to the failure to provide proof of address. Ibid. That notice further stated that, if Petitioner provided the required verification within 30 days, his SNAP benefits case would be reopened, thereby precluding a necessity to reapply. Ibid. Petitioner admits that he did not provide the requested verifications within thirty days of December 8, 2022. Ibid. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household composition, household income, and residency. 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 the presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ found the Agency's evidence credible, and therefore concluded that Petitioner had not



provided the requested information required to be verified in order to determine SNAP benefits eligibility, and as such, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; 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. July 24, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

