



State of New Jersey

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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 **09082-23 S.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C112363008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals the Agency's termination of Petitioner's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits as the result of a failure 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 October 6, 2023, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On October 11, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits in October 2022, and was approved for SNAP benefits for a two member household. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7. On January 3, 2023, Petitioner submitted an Interim Reporting Form ("IRF") adding a new member to her household. See Initial Decision at 2, 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-6.

On April 20, 2023, Petitioner was requested to provide the Agency with, among other things, the new household member's photo ID, their social security card, birth certificate, income verification, and school verification, if applicable. See Initial Decision at 2, 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6. Petitioner claimed that she had difficulty receiving her mail at the time when the Agency requested the information, however, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide any evidence to substantiate her claim. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 4, 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 12. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income and household composition. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20, -5.11. 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 to determine continued SNAP benefits eligibility, and as such, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9-11; 13-14, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20, 5.11. I agree.



No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

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 hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency action.

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 in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version. October 26, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

