



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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 **06212-23 T.T.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C099686015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits, at recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits at recertification because Petitioner's combined household income exceeded the maximum permissible level for continued receipt of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A telephonic fair hearing was scheduled for August 8, 2023, at 9:00am before the Honorable Sarah H. Surgent, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). Petitioner did not call in at the scheduled time, and after waiting fifteen minutes, the ALJ marked the case as a "failure to appear." See Initial Decision at 2. Thereafter, at 10:10am, Petitioner dialed in, while the ALJ was on another call. Ibid. Petitioner insisted that the notice for the fair hearing said 10:00am, and the ALJ graciously agreed to discuss the case. Ibid. While conducting a telephonic pre-hearing conference, Petitioner became belligerent, and ultimately hung up from the telephone conference and did not call back. Ibid. Based on the foregoing the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned his fair hearing, and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. Ibid.

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, as I find that Petitioner abandoned his appeal in this matter. As such, the Agency's March 20, 2023, denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner, effective April 1, 2023, remains in force as issued.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed.

Officially approved final version. August 23, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

