



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

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 **09725-23 A.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C118136003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that she failed to provide requested verifications necessary to determine continued SNAP eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 29, 2023, the Honorable Michael R. Stanzione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing via Zoom, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until December 6, 2023, to allow the parties the opportunity to submit additional documents and then closed on that date. On December 19, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

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, AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

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.

Here, the record shows that Petitioner submitted an Interim Reporting Form ("IRF") which indicated that she was employed and receiving earned income. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-A. As a result, on December 20, 2022, the Agency advised Petitioner, in writing, of certain verifying documentation required to be provided to the Agency within 10 days from the date of said notice, in order to determine continued eligibility for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-B, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20, -2.30(a)(3). When the requested documentation was not received, the Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits effective April 1, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2, 3-4; see also Exhibit R-C at 1, 2. The record reflects that Petitioner had failed to timely provide all of the requested documentation to the Agency, but finally provided the requested verifications on August 2, 2023, seven



months and two weeks after said verifications were requested. See Initial Decision at 2, 5; see also Exhibit R-C at 3-7. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, as it was unable to determine Petitioner's continued eligibility for said benefits. See Initial Decision at 4-6; see also Exhibit R-C at 1-2. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is advised that she may reapply for SNAP benefits, but must timely provide the Agency with all requested documentation needed to determine her eligibility for said benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version. January 4, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

