



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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*Commissioner*

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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 11924-23 T.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S454878001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that he failed to provide verification documentation needed to determine continued SNAP benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 21, 2023, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 28, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that on August 9 2023, the Agency learned, through a New Hires Match, that Petitioner was employed and had unreported earned income. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 16-20, 23. On the same day, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide copies of his paystubs for verification of income within ten (10) days. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 23. The Agency did not receive any documentation from Petitioner refuting or verifying the employment and resultant earned income. See Exhibit R-1 at 1-2. As a result, on August 24, 2023, the Agency notified Petitioner that since he had failed to submit any income verification documents, his SNAP benefits case would close effective September 1, 2023. See Exhibit R-1 at 1-2. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income, which includes self-employment income. 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. Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -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.

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



Officially approved final version. February 14, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

