



State of New Jersey

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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 17434-17 A.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S724150009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits on recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits contending that she failed to provide information required for the recertification process. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for December 18, 2017, but was adjourned at Petitioner's request. On January 3, 2018, the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On January 10, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner was scheduled for, and failed to participate in, a recertification phone conference on September 19, 2017, required to renew her SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1 at 1-2. Thereafter, the Agency sent Petitioner a follow-up letter stating that she needed to contact the Agency and participate in the recertification process or her SNAP benefits would end on September 30, 2017. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1 at 1. The record indicates that on October 5, 2017, Petitioner was in possession of the required recertification forms, and was informed that she needed to return those forms, signed, as well as all necessary documentation, by October 20, 2017, in order to be approved for continued SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see Exhibit R-1 at 2. Petitioner did not do so, and on November 6, 2017, the Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits for failure to provide requested information. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -6.20. Petitioner testified that she did not sign the forms and submit the documentation because she had started working, and feared that her SNAP benefits would be terminated; however, she later returned to the Agency with her paperwork and was told her case had been closed. See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ correctly noted that Petitioner's eligibility for SNAP benefits ceased at the end of Petitioner's certification period, September 30, 2017. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1(a) ("No household may participate [in SNAP] beyond the expiration of the certification period ... without a determination of eligibility for a new period."). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner did not complete the recertification process, and that the Agency's decision to deny Petitioner SNAP benefits on recertification was proper. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -6.20, -9.2(c)(3). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the Initial Decision and the record in this matter, and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.



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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

JAN 26 2018

