



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 02332-18 S.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C115897015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits on recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits on recertification due to Petitioner's failure to cooperate with the necessary recertification requirements. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 9, 2018, the Honorable Edward J. Delaney, Jr., Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony.

On March 15, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that prior to Petitioner's recertification in August of 2017, the Agency asked Petitioner to provide proof of his income and business expenses by a date certain. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(a). On August 23, 2017, Petitioner completed an application for SNAP benefits, wherein he stated that his wife was self-employed, and submitted a handwritten profit and loss statement for eight months. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-3, R-4. However, the Agency denied the application for SNAP benefits, effective October 1, 2017, finding that the profit and loss statement was insufficient, in that it was required to show twelve separate months of information. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner was given thirty days to produce a new statement that demonstrated twelve separate months of profit and loss information, in order for the case to be reopened. Ibid. Petitioner did not provide the new statement within the time allotted. Ibid. As a result, Petitioner did not receive SNAP benefits for October through December 2017. See Initial Decision at 4. Petitioner was subsequently approved for SNAP benefits effective January 1, 2018. See id. at 1. Based on the evidence presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not cooperate with providing sufficient documentation to verify his income, and affirmed the Agency's action denying Petitioner SNAP benefits, and therefore, Petitioner was ineligible for SNAP benefits for the months of October through December 2017. See id. at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19(b). 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 considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.



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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

MAR 27 2018

