



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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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 **05046-22 A.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C224039013 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals the Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, due to Petitioner's failure to provide information requested by the Agency. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 15, 2022, the Honorable David M. Fritch, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record closed on that date. On August 4, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency determination, as outlined below.

The record in this matter indicates that, on January 3, 2022, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. The next day, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide, among other items, copies of checking and/or savings account statements, rent receipts, and utility bills. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2. In response to the Agency's request for documents, on January 12, 2022, Petitioner provided copies of some bank statements, a letter documenting her living arrangements, and a gas bill. See Initial Decision at 3. Based upon its review of the living arrangement letter it received on January 12, 2022, and the unearned income Petitioner reported in her January 3, 2022, application for SNAP benefits, specifically, the amount of Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits, the Agency determined that the total amount of income reported by Petitioner was insufficient to meet her monthly rent and other documented expenses. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1 at 6, R-3. As a result, on January 14, 2022, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide within 10 days, a copy of Petitioner's most recent mutual fund statement, and a signed letter documenting how Petitioner was meeting her financial needs, including any additional monthly financial support she was receiving. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-3.



On February 1, 2022, Petitioner's daughter provided a letter to the Agency stating that she was providing financial support to Petitioner in the form of loans that Petitioner was using towards purchasing mutual funds. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-5 at 2. The February 1, 2022, letter did not contain details on how much financial support was being provided. Ibid. The next day, on February 2, 2022, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits for failing to provide information sufficient for it to determine Petitioner's eligibility. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19.

On March 30, 2022, Petitioner filed a new application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-7. On April 1, 2022, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide, among other items, and within 10 days, information regarding Petitioner's mutual fund holdings, and bank statements. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-8. Petitioner did not provide the requested items within 10 days, and on April 29, 2022, the Agency denied Petitioner's March 30, 2022, application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Thereafter, on May 9, 2022, Petitioner provided a statement from her mutual fund holdings, as previously requested by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-11. The Agency then approved Petitioner's March 30, 2022, application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4.

The ALJ found Petitioner not credible when she testified that she provided the requested information to the Agency, following receipt of the Agency's January 14, 2022, request, but before the Agency denied her first application for SNAP benefits on February 3, 2022. See Initial Decision at 5-6. The ALJ further found that Petitioner did not provide, within 10 days, the mutual fund statement, or a more detailed statement of how she was meeting her monthly financial needs, which the Agency had specifically requested. Id. at 6; see also Exhibit R-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's January 3, 2022, application for SNAP benefits, was appropriate and should be affirmed, as she had failed to comply with the Agency's request to provide all requested documentation. See Initial Decision at 7; see also Exhibit R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.16, -2.19, -2.20. I agree.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, and the Agency's action is hereby AFFIRMED, based on the discussion above.

Officially approved final version.

September 15, 2022

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

