



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **10378-21 B.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S470611014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner challenges the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits due to an alleged failure to provide sufficient information. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A telephonic plenary hearing was scheduled for January 27, 2022, before the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). On January 31, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, dismissing Petitioner's appeal.

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 and AFFIRM the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits.

The record in this matter reflects that, on January 27, 2022, Petitioner and the Agency's representative appeared for the scheduled hearing via telephone due to the COVID pandemic and applicable restrictions. See Initial Decision at 1-2. While conferencing the matter with the parties prior to commencement of the hearing, Petitioner became irritated and/or frustrated and hung up.

Id. at 2. Petitioner did not attempt to call back to rejoin the conference or proceed with the hearing. Ibid. Accordingly, the ALJ determined that Petitioner had abandoned her request for a hearing in the matter and dismissed the case. Ibid.

Based on the foregoing, I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter and, therefore, I affirm the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits and dismiss the case.

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



Officially approved final version.

February 3, 2022

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

