



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 **06008-22 C.V.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C167957002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending no separate household. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 11, 2022, the Honorable Danielle Pasquale, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On August 15, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on January 24, 2022. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner lives with his sister rent free and has no income. Ibid. Initially, Petitioner was issued expedited SNAP benefits for two months, and the Agency requested necessary, mandatory verifications. Ibid. Upon receipt of the requested verifications, the case was assigned for processing, and through a living arrangement form, completed by Petitioner's sister, it was indicated that Petitioner did not purchase or prepare meals separately from his sister. Ibid. Thereafter, at the end of the two month expedited period, Petitioner's case was closed, and he was issued an adverse action notice by the Agency on April 29, 2022, denying Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits for no separate household. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1. Based on record presented, and applicable regulatory authority, it is clear that Petitioner resides with his sister, and that Petitioner and his sister purchase and prepare food as one household, with no evidence or testimony having been presented to refute same. See Initial Decision at 6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(a)(2). As such, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner himself does not constitute a separate household, and therefore, the Agency's April 29, 2022, denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4, 6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(a)(2). 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.

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



Officially approved final version.

August 30, 2022

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

