



## 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 **05257-22 D.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C038406017 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, and the termination of her Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide documentation necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 18, 2022, the Honorable Catherine A. Tuohy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On July 27, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits in April 2022. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. The record further reflects that, following an initial telephone interview with the Agency on April 14, 2022, Petitioner was given expedited SNAP benefits for a one-month period, pending required information and verification being provided, and WFNJ/TANF benefits remained pending. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9-15. Petitioner was sent written notice outlining information and documentation required to determine eligibility, to be returned by May 11, 2022, in order to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 16. Thereafter, while Petitioner returned the signed application packet to the Agency, requested verification pertaining to Petitioner's prior employment was not provided. See Initial Decision at 3. As Petitioner had not provided the requested employment documentation to the Agency, an adverse action notice, denying WFNJ/TANF benefits, and terminating Petitioner's SNAP benefits, was issued on May 10, 2022. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(e)(1) and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5)(stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation."). Based on the credible testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits, and termination of SNAP benefits, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4, 5-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.19 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ and SNAP benefits in her current county of residence, but is reminded that she must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version.

August 18, 2022

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

