



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

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 **04569-22 K.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S618669012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals the 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 Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and terminated her 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 June 24, 2022, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open to allow both parties to submit additional documentation. On June 24, 2022, the Agency submitted an additional document. Petitioner did not submit any additional documentation, and the record then closed on July 5, 2022. On July 19, 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 27, 2022, Petitioner, a SNAP benefits recipient, applied for WFNJ/TANF benefits for a household of four, comprised of Petitioner and three children. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Thereafter, on January 28, 2022, the Agency contacted the school where two of Petitioner's children had attended, and requested that the school confirm their enrollment at the school. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-6. On that same date, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide, among other items, documentation exhibiting proof of residency, and copies of checking and/or savings account statements. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2 at 17. On February 1, 2022, the school's representative advised the Agency that, as of January 31, 2022, Petitioner's children were no longer enrolled there, as the family had moved. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-6.



In response to the Agency's January 28, 2022, request for documents, Petitioner provided copies of statements from herself, her parent, and two others, purporting to explain banking transactions on banking statements, which were previously submitted with a December, 2021, application for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 3, 4-5; see also Exhibits R-3, R-10. The Agency also obtained a copy of the bank statement submitted with Petitioner's previous application for benefits; however, the Agency could not rely upon it because it was dated more than 30 days prior to the current application. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-11.

On February 7, 2022, Petitioner notified the Agency that she receives financial support every month from S.G., the father of one of her children. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-5. On February 8, 2022, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide a statement from S.G., stating how much and how often he provides child support. See Exhibits R-2, R-4.

The ALJ found Petitioner not credible when she testified that was unaware that she was required to provide updated bank records in conjunction with her January 27, 2022, application for benefits. See Initial Decision at 5, 6. The ALJ further found that Petitioner did not provide bank statements which the Agency had specifically requested. Id. at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that both the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and the termination of her SNAP benefits, were 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 8-9; see also Exhibit R-8 at 83, 83, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.16, N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to re-apply for WFNJ/TANF and/or SNAP benefits, but is reminded that she must comply with the Agency's requests for documentation and information required to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version.

August 4, 2022

---

Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

