



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 **08196-22 R.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C071846003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits because Petitioner had failed to file the required Interim Reporting Form ("IRF") for continued receipt of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A telephonic plenary hearing was scheduled for October 24, 2022, before the Honorable Sarah H. Surgent, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"). During a pre-hearing conference on the matter, Petitioner became agitated and argumentative. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner then stated that she would reapply for SNAP benefits, hung up from the telephone conference and did not call back. Based on the foregoing, on November 3, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner has abandoned her appeal and as such, dismissed Petitioner's appeal. *Ibid.*

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, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed.

Officially approved final version.

November 9, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

