



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 **08108-22 R.E.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C244340009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine continued eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 19, 2022, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. The record remained open until the end of the day on October 19, 2022, for Petitioner to submit supporting documentation. When nothing was received from Petitioner, the record then closed.

On October 20, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner had been advised that she must provide one month of paystubs for herself and her husband, in order to continue receipt of SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. When only one paystub for each herself and her husband were received by the Agency, Petitioner was then notified on July 7, 2022, that her SNAP case would close effective August 1, 2022. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner maintained that she had provided what was requested, but could not provide any evidence to support her representation. See Initial Decision at 2. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as all household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid.* Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all of the information required to be verified to determine continued eligibility, and as such, the Agency's termination of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. 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 SNAP benefits, but 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.

November 1, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

