



## 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 **10083-21 R.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C077534008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and 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 January 7, 2022, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 17, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits online on October 19, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3 - 20. The record further reflects that, following an initial telephone interview with the Agency on October 22, 2021, written notice was sent to Petitioner outlining information and documentation required to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 49. Included in the items needed to process was information pertaining to Petitioner's prior employment. *Ibid.* Thereafter, as Petitioner had not provided the requested documentation to the Agency, a denial notice was issued on November 18, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 55-60. At the time of the denial, with respect to Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, Petitioner was advised that his application had been denied for failure to provide required documentation, but that, if the requested documentation was provided, Petitioner's application could still be considered during the next 30-day look back period, and if not provided, Petitioner would then be required to file a new application. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(e)(1). Petitioner did not submit the necessary documentation. See Initial Decision at 2. As such, the Agency's November 18, 2021, denial of WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits to Petitioner remained in force. See Initial Decision at 3; see also 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 both WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and



must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 55-59, 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 his current county of residence, but is reminded that he 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.

February 1, 2022

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

