



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*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 **01590-25 L.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C278585009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits for failure to provide information necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On April 3, 2025, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open for the submission of additional documents and closed on April 7, 2025. On April 9, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits, on behalf of herself and her two children, on July 16, 2024, and thereafter, on July 19, 2024, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification Form for additional information including income documentation for each member of the household (including Petitioner's sister and brother, with whom she resided), the Social Security number and citizenship status of each household member, rent, utility bills, and a letter from Petitioner's sister as to the living and eating arrangements in the household. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On August 19, 2024, the Agency issued a denial notice to Petitioner, as the deadline for submission of the requested information, necessary to establish benefit eligibility, had lapsed and Petitioner had not supplied the requested information. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner was provided thirty additional days for the submission of the requested information and on September 17, 2024, she submitted the information to the Agency. *Ibid.* Following the hearing, the record remained open for the receipt of the documents submitted, including the letter from Petitioner's sister, which was necessary to review to determine if Petitioner had provided the information sought by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2-3. The ALJ found that the Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with the required documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's eligibility for SNAP benefits, and specifically that the letter authored by Petitioner's sister did not provide the information requested, and as such, concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for said benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit P-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.15, -2.19, -2.20, -2.21, -2.22. 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, if she has not already done so, but is advised that she must provide all documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the applications and any required documentation.

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

Officially approved final version. May 06, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

