



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 **11145-25 P.Y.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C130902001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits because Petitioner failed to participate in the required interview. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 15, 2025, the Honorable Susan McCabe, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On August 28, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on March 17, 2025, and, on that same date, the Agency provided Petitioner a Certification Appointment for NJ SNAP Benefits notice, indicating a scheduled telephone interview for March 20, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-14, R-17. The Agency was unable to reach Petitioner via telephone on March 20, 2025, and on that same date mailed a Notice of Missed Telephone Interview, indicating that Petitioner needed to contact the Agency to reschedule her interview. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-15. On April 16, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, indicating that she had failed to participate in the required interview. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not participated in the required interview, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.18, -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.

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

Officially approved final version. September 25, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

