



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 **11642-25 S.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C087155015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. 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 for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On August 8, 2025 the Honorable Deirdre Hartman-Zohlman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 15, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that, on February 25, 2025, the Agency increased the SNAP benefits to Petitioner's household based upon information that Petitioner's husband was no longer employed. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3. In addition, the Agency requested financial documentation explaining how the household was meeting monthly expenses. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-5. On March 11, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a Notice of Termination, stating that SNAP benefits would end effective April 1, 2025, due to Petitioner's failure to respond to the Agency's request for information as to how the household was meeting monthly expenses. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-6. On March 18, 2025, Petitioner provided numerous financial documents to the Agency for review. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-7. Following review of the submitted documents, the Agency sent, on March 24, 2025, an additional request for financial information including an income verification, a twelve-month profit and loss statement, receipts to verify expenses, and third-party verifications for any money loaned, along with repayment plans/agreements. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2. Thereafter, based upon an email address and subsequent internet search, the Agency uncovered that Petitioner's husband was a founder and CEO of a company which had not previously been disclosed to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-8. On April 5, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a Notice of Termination informing Petitioner that SNAP benefits would terminate effective May 1, 2025, due to the failure to respond to request for information regarding self-employment. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. On April 21, 2025, Petitioner provided a profit and loss statement for a business, but failed to submit any receipts or verifying information and, upon review of the submitted documentation, the Agency discovered discrepancies that did not allow for a proper determination of Petitioner's income. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-9. On May 30, 2025, Petitioner's husband went in person to the Agency where he met with a caseworker and then provided additional documentation. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-10, R-11, R-12, R-13, and R-14.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20, -2.22. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined, granted, or continued. Ibid. Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided



the requested 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 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20, -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, but must timely 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. September 04, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

