



State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
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 **20121-25 C.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C128492003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits at recertification. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, at recertification, contending that he failed to provide information as requested and required to determine his eligibility for continued SNAP benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On February 25, 2026, the Honorable Joan M. Burke, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On March 11, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, the ALJ's Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED, based on the discussion below.

Here, the record reveals that the Agency conducted a recertification interview with Petitioner on August 13, 2025, at which time the Agency representative noted that Petitioner was receiving assistance with paying his mortgage from the VA. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-A. Following the telephone interview, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification asking him to "provide verification of how VA is helping with your mortgage." Ibid. Petitioner did not respond to the Request for Verification, in regards to any documentation from the VA or a mortgage statement, and Petitioner's case was closed effective October 1, 2025. Ibid. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner did provide the tribunal with copies of his mortgage statements for August, 2025, and October, 2025. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit P-1.

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency correctly closed Petitioner's SNAP benefits case at recertification, due to his failure to provide the required verification/information, after requests for same. See Initial Decision at 2, 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(e), and N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1 et seq. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner reapplied for SNAP benefits on December 10, 2025, and, at that time, he submitted the required mortgage statements, after which his application for SNAP benefits was approved. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-C.

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



Officially approved final version. March 31, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

