



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 **18767-25 M.K.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S631716012 (MIDDLESEX 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 January 27, 2026, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing (Petitioner appeared in person), took testimony and admitted documents. On February 5, 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 sent Petitioner a Request for Contact on September 9, 2025, seeking information and verification as to how Petitioner was paying his mortgage of \$3,529 per month when he had no income, or alternatively, proof of the amount of arrears for his mortgage. See Exhibit R-1. Petitioner did not respond to the Request for Contact and Petitioner's case was closed effective October 1, 2025. See Exhibit R-2. On October 1, 2025, Petitioner submitted a letter explaining his financial hardship situation, however, he provided no substantiating documentation or verification. See Exhibit R-3. Thereafter, on October 3, 2025, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide information as to how he was paying his mortgage when he had no income, specifically requesting monetary contribution letters from his family members and verification of earnings from online sales. See Exhibit R-4. In response, Petitioner submitted letters and print-outs from online sales however, the sale dates were not included on the documents. See Exhibits R-5, R-6, R-8, R-9. The Agency attempted to provide instructions as to how Petitioner could obtain sale information for his online sales, however, the Agency received no further information and the SNAP case remained closed. See Exhibits R-10, R-11, R-12.

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 multiple 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 is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, but is reminded that he must provide all necessary information and verifications requested to the Agency needed to determine eligibility.



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

Officially approved final version. March 04, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

