



This matter concerns the denial of Petitioner's September 2017 application for Medicaid benefits due to the failure to provide information regarding his wife and real property, both of which were not disclosed in the application. Petitioner was identified as single and owning no real property. There was also a joint checking account number that was disclosed on the application. That account is held by Petitioner and his wife at a Pennsylvania address. Essex County sent notices to Future Care Consulting (FCC), the entity that had signed the application as Petitioner's authorized representative for information about the couple's finances. However no information was forthcoming and the application was denied in February 2018.

After repeated adjournments requested by FCC, the matter was heard in November 2019. Jake Brand, an employee of FCC, stated that "his company was unaware that petitioner was married until the agency discovered this fact." ID at 7. He also stated that he had provided five years of bank statements for Petitioner's spouse. However, the ALJ noted that Mr. Brand "brought no copies of the statements or other documentary proof" that FCC had provided the statements. ID at 2.

The application filed by FCC contained incomplete or questionable statements that required corroborative evidence. N.J.A.C. 10:71-3.1(b). The record contains a singular bank statement from June 2017 from Petitioner and his wife's platinum checking account. R-6. The statement shows deposits and withdrawals to the account during that month. FCC also failed to disclose that Petitioner owned real property in New Jersey despite Petitioner's savings account being tied the address. No further information about the joint account or the real property was provided by FCC.

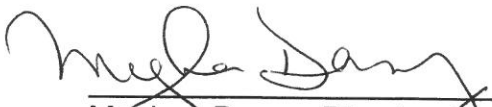
The issue presented here is whether Petitioner provided the necessary verifications for Essex County to make an eligibility determination. The credible evidence in the record demonstrates that Petitioner failed to provide the needed information. Without this information, the County was unable to complete its eligibility determination and the denial

was appropriate. Based on my review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's findings and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision.

THEREFORE, it is on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of DECEMBER 2018,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.

  
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Meghan Davey, Director  
Division of Medical Assistance  
and Health Services