



State of New Jersey

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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 00791-18 S.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C135946004 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits on recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits on recertification due to Petitioner's failure to cooperate with the necessary recertification requirements. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was scheduled for February 26, 2018, but adjourned until March 5, 2018. On March 5, 2018, the Honorable Susan L. Olgiati, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony.

On March 19, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that on August 10, 2017, the Agency requested information from Petitioner regarding her current employment, and verification of child support, within ten days, for purposes of recertification of SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-6. On August 23 and 24, 2017, the Agency received an email and a letter, respectively, from Petitioner, stating that she would start receiving income from her job in September, and that she receives money from her children's father, but not for rent. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-7, R-28. Finding the information from Petitioner to be incomplete, on August 30, 2017, the Agency requested Petitioner that provide, within ten days, current pay stubs and a written statement from Petitioner's children's father as to the child support arrangement. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-8.

On September 6, 2017, the Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits on recertification, effective September 1, 2017. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1 to R-3. The Agency utilized the most recent information available concerning Petitioner's salary and child support figures to find that she was over income and, therefore, ineligible for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4, -5.5, -9.1, and -12.4. Thereafter, Petitioner and the Agency corresponded, but the Agency determined that Petitioner did not satisfactorily resolve the confusion over her employment and child support. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibits R-9, R-10, R-11. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concurred, finding the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits proper, as Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with clear income verification and child support information. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4, -9.1, -9.2(c). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.



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

Officially approved final version.

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Natasha Johnson  
Director

**MAR 23 2018**

