



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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*Commissioner*

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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 11120-23 H.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C179878003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, the termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the imposition of a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits. Upon a redetermination, the Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits for a period of two months, contending that Petitioner had voluntarily quit employment. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, and imposed a six-month period of ineligibility for EA benefits due to his voluntary quit, and also, terminated his EA benefits because he was not a WFNJ or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 17, 2024, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 29, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner voluntarily quit employment, without good cause, when he was terminated from his employment for engaging in abusive behavior. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also R-1 Exhibit A at 3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.14(b). The ALJ also found that Petitioner had failed to provide any evidence, documentation, or testimony to dispute his employer's statement that he was terminated for abusive behavior. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial at redetermination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, and the imposition of a two-month voluntary quit penalty, were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3, 5; see also R-1 Exhibit B at 5-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.14(a). I agree.

Additionally, based on Petitioner's voluntary quit of employment, the ALJ also concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and the imposition of a six-month EA ineligibility penalty, were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also R-1 Exhibit B at 7-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Further, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits on the basis that Petitioner was not a WFNJ or SSI benefits recipient was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision 4-5; see also R-1 Exhibit B at 7-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I also 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, based on the record, I find that Petitioner's two-month period of ineligibility began to run on July 14, 2023, the date the Agency had determined that Petitioner had voluntarily quit his job. See Initial Decision at 2; see also



R-1 Exhibit A at 3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.14(a). As such, I find that Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits penalty period expired on September 14, 2023, and he may now reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, if he has not already done so.

By way of further comment, Petitioner's six-month EA ineligibility penalty shall run from September 4, 2023, the effective date of the Agency's termination, through March 4, 2024. See R-1 Exhibit B at 8. Therefore, Petitioner may also now reapply for EA benefits, if he has not already done so.

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

Officially approved final version. March 13, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

