



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 11278-14 C.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA118508 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of both her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's benefits as it contended that Petitioner had voluntarily quit her employment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 6, 2014, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On October 15, 2014, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision reversing the Agency's termination of both Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4. The ALJ concluded that the document relied upon by the Agency, a form completed by the temporary employment agency that Petitioner was employed by, was hearsay and not reliable as it was not "supported by some scintilla of credible evidence." See *id.* at 3-4. The ALJ found Petitioner's testimony, that she needed work, was actively seeking work, and did not quit the temporary employment agency, to be credible. See *id.* at 4. As such, the ALJ determined that the Agency had improperly terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits. *Ibid.*

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision. Following an independent evaluation of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision in this matter and I hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as contained in the Initial Decision.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination, as to Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, is hereby reversed.

OCT 31 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director