

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Chris Christie Governor

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Elizabeth Connolly Acting Commissioner

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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 16102-15 D.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C059382 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's sanctioning his of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits contending that he failed to comply with his Individual Responsibility Plan ("IRP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 13, 2015, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 1, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner violated the terms of his IRP when he had to be removed from his WFNJ required work activity because of his disruptive behavior, and when he left another required work activity placement, prior to completing the required 10-day compliance period, where he again exhibited disruptive behavior. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that the Agency properly sanctioned Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the 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 in this matter.

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

DEC 2 9 2015

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson Director