



*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 14145-14 G.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA358520 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's sanctioning of both his Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's benefits based upon a failure to cooperate. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 5, 2014, the Honorable Tiffany M. Williams, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On December 23, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision reversing the Agency's sanctioning of both Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ noted that the Agency representative who appeared at the hearing had no knowledge pertaining to the sanction, or involvement with Petitioner's case prior to the hearing. See *id.* at 1-2. The ALJ further noted that Petitioner was unsure precisely what his conduct had been that resulted in the sanction. See *id.* at 2. As the Agency failed to provide any evidence in support of the sanction, the ALJ ordered that the Agency's action, imposing a sanction against Petitioner's benefits, be reversed.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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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.

By way of comment, the Agency is reminded of its responsibilities in representation and presentation of a matter at a plenary hearing before an ALJ, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-9.12(b).

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

**JAN -7 2015**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director