

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Chris Christie Governor

Kim Guadagno Lt. Governor Division of Family Development P.O. Box 716 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Elizabeth Connolly Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson Director Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 765-15 G.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA417618 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits because it determined that she had exhausted her cumulative lifetime limit of WFNJ cash benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 20, 2015, the Honorable Jeffrey A. Gerson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On December 9, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner received 43 months of WFNJ/GA benefits, and 38 months of WFNJ/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner had exhausted her lifetime total of 60 cumulative months of WFNJ cash benefits. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). The ALJ also found that Petitioner provided no proof that she meets any of the exceptions required for an exemption to, or an extension of, the WFNJ lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, and -2.5. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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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.

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