



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 9396-14 J.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C420149 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's benefits based upon an alleged failure to provide the Agency with requested documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 25, 2014, the Honorable Joann LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On August 25, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that the Petitioner testified credibly that the Agency had requested Internal Revenue Service documentation from Petitioner on June 3, 2014. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner provided the requested documentation on June 16, 2014, and June 26, 2014, within 30 days of the Agency's request, as required by regulation. See *id.* at 2-3. Based upon the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's action was improper and ordered that Petitioner's benefits be restored effective May 1, 2014. See *id.* at 3.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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.

OCT 14 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director