



**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 9660-14 T.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C029955 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a Food Stamps, benefits, and the sanctioning of both Petitioner and her husband's Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits as it contended that Petitioner had failed to provide verification of Petitioner's husband's job termination. Petitioner and her husband's WFNJ/TANF benefits were both sanctioned due to alleged non-compliance with their work activity. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 11, 2014, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On August 11, 2014, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision. The ALJ reversed the Agency's determination as to the SNAP benefits, finding that there was no evidence presented that Petitioner had voluntarily quit his employment. See Initial Decision at 4. Moreover, the ALJ noted that Agency's requirement that Petitioner provide written verification regarding his termination from his former employer was unreasonable, as the Agency itself had attempted to obtain written verification as well, which was unanswered by the former employer. *Ibid.* As to the sanctioning of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, the ALJ reversed the Agency's determination, as Petitioner was already employed full-time and her decision to go to work, rather than to the work activity was the correct one. See Initial Decision at 5. The ALJ affirmed, however, the sanction against Petitioner's husband, as he could offer no reasonable explanation of why he did not attend the work activity. See *id.* at 5-6.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

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

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED. The Agency's actions as to Petitioner's SNAP benefits are REVERSED. The Agency's actions as to Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits are also REVERSED. The Agency's actions as to Petitioner's husband's WFNJ/TANF benefits are AFFIRMED.

SEP 12 2014

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director