



State of New Jersey

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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 02639-18 A.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C144372003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's sanctioning, and subsequent termination, of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, and the sanctioning of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency sanctioned/terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits because she failed to comply with Substance Abuse Initiative/Behavior Health Initiative ("SAI/BHI") required screenings. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for March 26, 2018, but was adjourned to April 11, 2018, because Petitioner was unable to attend the hearing due to medical issues. On April 11, 2018, the Honorable David M. Fritch, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On April 23, 2018, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ concluded that the credible evidence in the record demonstrated that Petitioner failed attend scheduled urine drug screen ("UDS") appointments, as required in accordance with the SAI/BHI program, and did not offer any credible basis to establish good cause for her failure to attend. See Initial Decision at 3-9; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, P-3, R-1, R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-18.1(b), (e)(2)(i). As such, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's sanctioning, and subsequent termination, of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 9-11; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.2(b), -4.13, and -18.1(b), (e)(2)(i). I agree.

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.

By way of comment, the transmittal in this matter also indicates a contested issue pertaining to the sanctioning of Petitioner's SNAP benefits. This issue was not specifically addressed by the ALJ in the Initial Decision. However, based upon the credible evidence in the record, together with the ALJ's finding that Petitioner did not establish good cause for failing to participate in the SAI/BHI screenings,



I find that the Agency properly sanctioned Petitioner's SNAP benefits and I affirm that determination. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.2(a), (b), -18.1(b), (e)(2)(i), and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.32(b)(4).

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

Officially approved final version.

**APR 27 2018**

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Natasha Johnson  
Director

