



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 08350-18 M.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C456663007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's sanctioning of his Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency contends that it has not issued a sanction. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 27, 2018, the Honorable JoAnn LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Assignment Judge (hereinafter "ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony. On that same date, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision dismissing Petitioner's appeal, with prejudice.

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner is receiving benefits under the Supportive Assistance for Individuals and Families Program ("SAIF"), and to date, has received 52 months of WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20. At one point, the Agency moved Petitioner from a computer literacy program to a required program that treats mental health issues, causing Petitioner to believe that the move was a sanction imposed against him. See Initial Decision at 2. However, the Agency confirmed that the move was not a sanction, and that it has no intention of imposing a sanction against Petitioner, as he is fully cooperative with the program requirements. Ibid.

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that no adverse action had been taken by the Agency with respect to Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, and as such, no cause of action exists at this time, and the ALJ therefore dismissed Petitioner's appeal, with prejudice. Ibid. I agree.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the Initial Decision and the record in this matter and I hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and DISMISS Petitioner's appeal.

By way of comment, Petitioner stated that he was terminated from his shelter placement through no fault of his own, and is now homeless. Ibid. Therefore, I direct the Agency to investigate the status of Petitioner's Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the matter is DISMISSED.



Officially approved final version.

SEP 4 2010

Natasha Johnson
Director

