



State of New Jersey

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Governor

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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 03518-19 V.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C402663007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's determination of his Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefit amount. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A plenary hearing was scheduled for March 28, 2019, before the Honorable Elissa Mizzone Testa, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

On that day, Petitioner appeared for the hearing, but then left the courtroom prior to commencement of the hearing and did not return. See Initial Decision at 2. As a result, on April 2, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner had abandoned the hearing, and thereby affirming the Agency's determination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefit amount. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED. As Petitioner abandoned the appeal, the Agency's action stands, and is thereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson  
Director

APR 11 2019

