



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 17504-19 S.E.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C199179020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 3, 2020, the Honorable Elissa Mizzone Testa, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony. On January 3, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, dismissing Petitioner's appeal, with prejudice.

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.

The record in this matter reflects that, on January 3, 2020, Petitioner and the Agency's representative appeared for the scheduled hearing. See Initial Decision at 2. At the hearing it was established that the Agency had reinstated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits at the beginning of January 2020, with no loss of benefits. Ibid. Accordingly, the Agency rescinded its termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, thus making Petitioner's appeal moot. Ibid. Nevertheless, Petitioner refused to sign a withdrawal of the appeal and left the courtroom without being excused, and prior to the hearing being concluded. Ibid. As a result, the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned the hearing, and dismissed Petitioner's appeal, with prejudice. Ibid. I agree.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal now being deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED, with prejudice.



Officially approved final version.

JAN 14 2010

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

