



State of New Jersey

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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 03209-21 A.Z.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C144523016 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 3, 2021, the Honorable Jude-Anthony Tiscornia, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a pre-hearing conference with the parties. At that time, Petitioner confirmed that she is, in fact, currently receiving SNAP benefits and has been since February 2021. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ then convened a telephonic plenary hearing, during which, Petitioner indicated that she did not wish to pursue her appeal of the Agency's WFNJ/TANF denial. Ibid. Petitioner further stated that, as she was currently receiving SNAP benefits, she was only pursuing retroactive SNAP benefits for the months of December, 2020, and January, 2021. Ibid. Not long after the hearing began, Petitioner became irate, yelling at the Agency's representative, uttering expletives and then abruptly hanging up from the telephonic hearing. Ibid. On May 6, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner had abandoned her appeal, and thereby dismissing Petitioner's appeal.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter and, therefore, I affirm the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits, and further deny Petitioner's request seeking retroactive SNAP benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed.



Officially approved final version.

MAY 10 2021

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

