



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 **08138-22 A.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C173482003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that she failed to provide required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for October 24, 2022, but was adjourned because Petitioner alleged that she had not received the Agency's hearing packet, and that she wanted to submit substantiating documents herself for the hearing. The hearing was rescheduled for December 14, 2022, however, Petitioner failed to submit documents in advance as directed, and at Petitioner's request, the hearing was again rescheduled for December 15, 2022. Petitioner failed to appear, but had submitted documents later that day. At Petitioner's request, the hearing was yet again rescheduled for January 20, 2023, and on that date, the Honorable Sarah H. Surgent, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On February 10, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly noticed Petitioner regarding the specific documentation required to be provided to the Agency in order for it to determine her eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 6; see also Exhibit R-B, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2(a)(5). The ALJ also found the Agency representative credible, when he testified that the GA-30 form, the GA-30A form, and Petitioner's bank statements had, as of the time of the hearing, still not been received by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 5-6. Although Petitioner had submitted some documents to the OAL, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the required GA-30 and GA-30A forms, and had failed to provide her bank statements, as required by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit P-1. Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide any "cognizable good cause exception" for such failure. See Initial Decision at 4-7. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that that Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also Exhibit R-C. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.



As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

By way of comment, Petitioner is advised that she may reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits but must supply all required information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version.

March 23, 2023

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

