



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 **00741-23 C.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C123171008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that he failed to provide proof of a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits appeal required for continued WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 2, 2023, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 13, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, as a regulatory condition for continued eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner was required to provide the Agency with proof that he had appealed his denial of SSI benefits, by October 31, 2022. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3), (5). The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with such proof until December 9, 2022, which was after the Agency's November 11, 2023, notice of termination, and without good cause. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(d). The record also reflects that the Agency had noticed and contacted Petitioner on several occasions to remind him that such proof was required. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10-11. 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 without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, but is reminded that he must provide all required documentation needed to determine his WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility.

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



Officially approved final version. May 09, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

