



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 **06455-23 C.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S962793009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM 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 he failed to provide required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 13, 2023, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 14, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that by "Notice of Verification" dated February 27, 2023, the Agency advised Petitioner of the documents required to determine his eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3. Specifically, the record reflects that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with his bank account information, and consequently, the Agency denied WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner, by notice dated March 13, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a)(5). Prior to the Agency's denial, Petitioner had provided the Agency with a handwritten note stating that he did not have a bank account, however, the ALJ found that Petitioner's bank account was not closed until May 2023, two months after the Agency's denial notice was sent to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had failed to provide the required bank statement documentation to the Agency, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). 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 all documentation required to determine eligibility must be provided to the Agency.



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

Officially approved final version. October 5, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

