



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 **07655-23 D.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C369750007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that she failed to comply with mandatory WFNJ eligibility protocol by failing to attend two required telephone interviews. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 14, 2023, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 16, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner was scheduled by the Agency for two mandatory telephone interviews on February 1, 2023, and February 15, 2023, required to determine her WFNJ/TANF benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2; see also R-1 at Exhibit 3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. The ALJ also found that Petitioner had failed to attend both telephone interviews, without good cause. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had failed to comply with the mandatory WFNJ eligibility protocol, and as such, determined that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3; see also R-1 at Exhibit 2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(d). 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/TANF benefits, but is reminded that eligibility is conditioned upon her complying with any and all required WFNJ eligibility protocol(s). See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2.

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



Officially approved final version. December 28, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

