



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 **04755-23 G.Q.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C254999009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that he failed to provide all required documentation to the Agency needed to determine his eligibility for EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 7, 2023, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until June 8, 2023, to allow the parties the opportunity to submit documents, and the record then closed.

On June 9, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, providing a detailed and well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-4. Specifically, the ALJ found it undisputed that, despite several notifications by the Agency, Petitioner had failed to provide all requested documentation to the Agency required for it to assess his eligibility for EA benefits, without good cause. *Id.* at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-2 through R-5. Of note, although the record was held open to allow Petitioner the opportunity to provide the documentation that was still required by the Agency, no such documentation was submitted. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 7-8; see also Exhibit R-22, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), (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 without prejudice to reapply for EA benefits, but is advised that he must provide the Agency with all requested/required documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) Further, the Agency is instructed to assist Petitioner with acquiring such documentation, as appropriate. See Initial Decision at 6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a).



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

Officially approved final version. June 20, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

