



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 11344-22 M.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C236135009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits and a reduction of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFJN/TANF benefits, contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of said benefits and did not meet the criteria for an exemption from the WFNJ/TANF benefits time limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 14, 2023, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open to allow the parties to submit additional documentation referenced in the hearing. None having been submitted, the record then closed on February 17, 2023.

On March 17, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and Petitioner acknowledged, that Petitioner had received 60 months of WFNJ/TANF benefits, and as such, the ALJ also found that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of said benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). In order to be granted continued WFNJ/TANF benefits, Petitioner had to qualify for an exemption from the WFNJ benefits lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 3-8. However, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide any documentation to show that she qualified for any such exemption. See Initial Decision at 2, 8. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not meet any of the criteria required for an exemption from the WFNJ/TANF benefits time limit. See Initial Decision at 8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 8. 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, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs.

By way of further comment, the transmittal in this matter also indicates a contested issue pertaining to a reduction of SNAP benefits. That issue was not addressed by the ALJ in the Initial Decision, and therefore, has not been addressed in this Final Agency Decision. Petitioner is advised that if she still wishes to contest the reduction of her SNAP benefits, she may request another fair hearing on that issue alone.



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

Officially approved final version. May 04, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

