



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 **09601-22 N.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C047816019 (SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that she failed to provide required bank account verifications. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for December 6, 2022, but was adjourned to allow Petitioner the opportunity to submit the required verifications to the Agency. Such proofs were not provided to the Agency, and on February 21, 2023, the Honorable Leslie Z. Celentano, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 28, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Upon a redetermination for continued WFNJ/TANF benefits, the Agency discovered that Petitioner had bank accounts that she had not reported to the Agency. Accordingly, the Agency notified Petitioner that she was required to provide it with certain bank account statements. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a)(5), (6). No such statements were provided, and by notice dated August 12, 2022, the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also "Notification Form" dated August 12, 2022, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a)(5), (6). The ALJ found that the Agency had properly noticed Petitioner, and had followed up with Petitioner on several occasions advising her that she was required to provide the Agency with her bank account information. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also "Request for Verification" dated July 5, 2022, "Notification Form" dated July 5, 2022, and "Notification Form" dated August 2, 2022. The ALJ also found that Petitioner failed to provide said information to the Agency, and had further failed to submit such information, even though the initial fair hearing date had been adjourned to allow her the opportunity to do so. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also "Standard Savings Statements." 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 4; see also "Notification Form" dated August 12, 2022. I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on March 22, 2023.



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, and that she must provide all required documentation to the Agency.

By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version. April 18, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

