



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 **05121-23 S.T.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C231994009 (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 the denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. On June 19, 2023, a telephonic plenary hearing was scheduled before the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

Also on June 19, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner had abandoned her claim because, during a prehearing conference with the parties, Petitioner hung up the phone and did not call back. See Initial Decision at 2. Further, Petitioner did not contact the ALJ's chambers to advise of any explanation for the abandonment. Therefore, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's termination of WFNJ/TANF benefits and denial EA benefits to Petitioner. *Ibid.*

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter. As such, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits and denial of EA benefits, remain in force as issued.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed.

Officially approved final version. June 22, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

