



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 **10511-23 J.K.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S438935014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of continued Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), the termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the denial of continued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Upon a redetermination for continued WFNJ/GA benefits, the Agency denied Petitioner continued WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that she failed to cooperate with the WFNJ/GA redetermination protocol, and terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for November 6, 2024, which hearing was postponed to December 7, 2023, and again postponed on that rescheduled date. On December 19, 2023, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 19, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that, after having been advised by the Agency on several occasions regarding the requirement to attend the WFNJ/GA redetermination interview, Petitioner, nonetheless, failed to complete the required WFNJ/GA redetermination protocol when she failed to attend her scheduled interview appointments. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-1 at 2, R-2, R-3 at 1-11, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(d), -3.22. The ALJ also found that Petitioner had failed to provide any good cause reason for such failure. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits P-1 through P-6. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-3 at 20-25, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(d), -3.22. I agree. The ALJ also found that Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits as she is no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient, and as such, concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I also agree.

Additionally, the ALJ found that Petitioner has been issued retroactive SNAP benefits, and as such, concluded that the denial of continued SNAP benefits to Petitioner is now moot. See Initial Decision at 2, 5; see also Exhibit R-3 at 1, 12-19. Again, 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, including Social Services for the Homeless.

By way of further comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ benefits, if she has not already done, but is reminded that she must comply with all program requirements. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(d).

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

Officially approved final version. February 01, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

