



State of New Jersey

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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 **01176-24 V.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C139976013 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he was no longer a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 31, 2024, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 31, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that the Agency had terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits in December 2023, because he had failed to provide proof that he had applied for citizenship, a requirement for continued WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(3). Of note, the termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits is not at issue here. Consequently, as Petitioner was no longer a WFNJ or SSI benefits recipient, the ALJ found that Petitioner was no longer eligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7-9. 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, it appears from the record that Petitioner has now completed and submitted his citizenship application, and is awaiting confirmation that his application has been received. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Therefore, Petitioner is advised that he may reapply for WFNJ/GA and EA benefits, but is reminded that he must provide the Agency with all required documentation to determine eligibility, including proof of the filing of his citizenship application. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -2.3(a)(3), -6.1 et seq.

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



Officially approved final version. February 14, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

