



State of New Jersey

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Governor

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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 16866-17 A.F.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C105805015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's sanctioning of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/General Assistance benefits, and termination of Petitioner's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits and terminated his SNAP benefits due to his failure to comply with the required work activity. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 8, 2017, the Honorable Judith Lieberman Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On December 22, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, on August 17, 2017, the Agency notified Petitioner that his WFNJ/GA benefits would be sanctioned if he did not comply with the program work requirement by September 1, 2017. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. In addition, Petitioner was also advised on the same day that a failure to come into compliance by September 1, 2017, would result in the termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits. Ibid. The Agency testified that Petitioner had failed to attend his scheduled work activity on multiple dates in October without an excused absence. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had failed to provide proof that he complied with his work requirement, and that the Agency had properly sanctioned his WFNJ/GA benefits, and terminated his SNAP benefits in this matter. See Initial Decision at 7; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8); see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's actions are hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson  
Director

JAN 18 2018

