



State of New Jersey

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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 17132-17 A.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C245193016 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits contending that he failed to comply with the required work activity, without good cause. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for December 11, 2017. The case was re-scheduled to December 18, 2017, but was not heard on that date. Finally, on December 21, 2017, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On January 2, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the 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, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

In order to maintain eligibility for receipt of WFNJ benefits, the recipient must cooperate with, and participate in, the WFNJ work activity requirements. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.1(a). If a WFNJ recipient fails to comply with their work activities without good cause, the recipient is subject to a progression of sanctions of their WFNJ benefits, including a reduction in benefits, a suspension of benefits and ultimately, a termination of benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(a), (b).

Here, as a condition for continued receipt of WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, Petitioner was required to participate in a work activity scheduled from September 2017, through March 2018. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.1(a), and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1. However, the ALJ found that Petitioner had several unexcused absences from his required work activity, and failed to provide sufficient evidence to show good cause for those absences. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-14. Also, Petitioner failed to attend a required meeting with the Agency on July 18, 2017, to discuss his options for continued WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2 at 1-2. Moreover, Petitioner admitted that he had not attended the required work-related activity since October 2017. See Initial Decision at 4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 16, R-2 at 4-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(a), (b), and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.20. I agree.



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

Officially approved final version.

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Natasha Johnson  
Director

JAN 12 2018

