



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 12727-18 J.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C045710005 (CAPE MAY COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's sanctioning of his Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, and the reduction and subsequent termination of his Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency sanctioned Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, and reduced and then terminated his SNAP benefits due his failure, as well as the failure of his spouse, to sign their respective Individual Responsibility Plans ("IRPs"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 27, 2018, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On October 3, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the record reflects that on July 3, 2018, the Agency notified Petitioner that effective August 1, 2018, his WFNJ/GA benefits would be sanctioned, and his SNAP benefits reduced, because his spouse failed to comply with the NJ SNAP Employment and Training Program ("ETP") and WFNJ work requirement, by refusing to sign her IRP. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1 at 15, R-2 at 34, 37-41; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1(b)(1), N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.8(a). Thereafter, on August 27, 2018, the Agency notified Petitioner that, effective October 1, 2018, his SNAP benefits would be terminated for failing to comply with the NJ SNAP ETP work requirement, by refusing to sign his IRP. See Initial Decision 3; see also Exhibits R-1 at 16, R-2 at 50-54, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1(b)(1). Petitioner acknowledged that he was requested to sign an IRP, and had refused to do so. See Initial Decision at 5. The ALJ found that Petitioner and his spouse, as recipients of WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, were required to cooperate with program requirements, one of which required them to sign their IRPs. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1(b)(1) and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.8(a). The ALJ further found that Petitioner and his spouse failed to comply with the WFNJ work activity requirement and NJ SNAP ETP, without good cause given for such failure. See Initial Decision 7; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.1(d), -4.11, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-15(a), -18(a), (b). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had properly sanctioned Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, and concluded further that the Agency's reduction and subsequent termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 8;



see also Exhibit R-2 at 37-41, 50-54, 58-62; and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.1(b)(1), and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.8(a).
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

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