



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 08281-18 K.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C160357015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner said benefits contending that she failed to provide requested documentation in a timely manner. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 27, 2018, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until August 3, 2018, to allow Petitioner to provide documents.

On August 22, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on March 13, 2018, Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-5. As Petitioner reported that she had a non-marital partner who provided income to her on a monthly basis, the Agency asked for verification of the amount in the form of a letter from the partner. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3, and R-4. Petitioner did not provide the information in the time specified by the Agency, and on April 18, 2018, her application for WFNJ/GA benefits was denied for failure to provide verification of income. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner testified that she had tried to reach her partner, but he had moved and was difficult to reach. See Initial Decision at 4-5. Petitioner testified that she had copies of the documentation needed, and agreed to produce them by August 3, 2018, after the hearing; however, she did not do so. See Initial Decision at 5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner failed to timely submit the requested documents, and that the Agency properly denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), (f), -2.2(a)(5). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the 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, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, if she has not already done so, provided she continues to need said benefits, is otherwise eligible for same, and provides necessary documentation as determined by the Agency.

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



Officially approved final version.

SEP 27 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

