



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 17253-17 S.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C714021007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits contending that she failed to submit documents needed for the application process. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 18, 2017, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 3, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/TANF and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits on October 13, 2017, and was given a list of documents needed from her to process her application. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Since Petitioner did not submit all of the required information, on November 8, 2017 the Agency denied her application for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner testified that she had provided certain documents, and explained her living situation; however, the ALJ found that her information was incomplete and/or untimely, resulting in the Agency's inability to determine her eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit P-1. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner failed to comply with the Agency's requests for information, and that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6-8; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2(a)(5). I agree.

Petitioner filed Exceptions to the Initial Decision on January 16, 2018.

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, the Initial Decision in this matter reflects an additional contested issue pertaining to a denial of SNAP benefits. However, that issue was not a transmitted issue on appeal. Therefore, if Petitioner still has an issue concerning a denial of SNAP benefits, she may request another fair hearing on that issue alone.

By way of further comment, as a result of Petitioner's submitted Exceptions, her case was processed on an expedited basis, as she requested.

Also by way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to re-apply for WFNJ/TANF benefits; however, Petitioner is reminded that she will need to provide all documentation requested by the Agency.



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

Officially approved final version.

**JAN 26 2018**

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Natasha Johnson

Director

