



State of New Jersey

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Governor

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

NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 **09680-21 C.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C254694020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's reduction of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 17, 2021, the Honorable Joann LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), convened the parties for a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

Also on December 17, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, dismissing Petitioner's appeal. During the course of the hearing, it was confirmed that Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF issue had been resolved, and that Petitioner is receiving WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. As the transmitted issue had been rectified, the ALJ found no contested issue remained, and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. *Id.* at 3, 4. Additionally, while Petitioner had questioned if the Agency was seeking a recoupment of an overissuance of WFNJ/TANF benefits, and the ALJ stated that no such issue was before the court for consideration, the ALJ outlined applicable regulatory authority stating that any overpayment of WFNJ/TANF benefits is required to be recouped by the Agency. *Id.* at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.21(a)(1).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I find that, as a contested case no longer exists, this matter has now been rendered moot, and as such, I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and DISMISS Petitioner's appeal with respect to the WFNJ/TANF issue.

By way of comment, the transmittal in this matter also indicates a contest issue regarding a reduction of SNAP benefits, effective January 1, 2022, which was not addressed by the ALJ in the Initial Decision. See Adverse Action notice dated November 29, 2021. If Petitioner still has an issue with the Agency's reduction of SNAP benefits, Petitioner may request another fair hearing on that issue alone.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED, and as no contested case exists in this matter, Petitioner's appeal is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version.

January 13, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

