



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

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*Lt. Governor*

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 **10066-21 E.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C763235007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's determination to accept her withdrawal of her application for Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. On July 30, 2021, an Agency social worker spoke with Petitioner, who indicated that she did not wish to apply for WFNJ/TANF benefits, following which, the Agency sent Petitioner a notice memorializing said withdrawal. See Initial Decision at 1. On or about October 7, 2021, Petitioner appealed the WFNJ/TANF determination, the matter was scheduled for a telephonic fair hearing before an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), at the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL"), but on the date of the hearing, Petitioner did not appear. *Id.* at 2. Petitioner maintains that she received no notice regarding the scheduled fair hearing. *Ibid.* As a result, the Bureau of Administrative Review and Appeals ("BARA"), at the Division of Family Development ("DFD"), retransmitted the matter to OAL, and a new telephonic fair hearing was then scheduled for January 11, 2022, before the Honorable Nanci G. Stokes, ALJ. *Ibid.* Prior to the opening of the record in the matter, Petitioner denied that she had withdrawn her WFNJ/TANF application, relayed that she was not satisfied with the Agency's suggestion that she reapply for benefits, and hung up from the telephonic hearing. *Ibid.* Petitioner had not conveyed any desire to continue with the hearing, and as Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits at any time, the ALJ found that Petitioner had abandoned her fair hearing, and dismissed Petitioner's appeal. *Ibid.*

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, DFD, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed.



Officially approved final version.

January 21, 2022

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

