



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
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 **02893-16 J.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C068172018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Emergency Assistance ("EA"), benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that she had failed to comply with the required WFNJ work activity, and terminated her EA benefits, contending that she had failed to comply with her EA service plan ("SP"), and violated motel/shelter rules. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. Beginning on April 12, 2016, and concluding on May 10, 2016, the Honorable Elia A. Pelios, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open to allow for written closing arguments, and having been received, the record then closed on July 26, 2016.

On January 14, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Based on an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner failed to comply with motel/shelter rules, failed to comply with her WFNJ work requirements, and failed to comply with SP requirements. See Initial Decision at 1-15; see also Exhibits R-1 through R-7, R-8 (A-M), R-9 (A-F), R-11, and R-13 at 2. Of note, I also take official notice of the fact that the records of this office indicate that Petitioner last received WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits on November 16, 2016. See N.J.A.C. 1:1-15.2(a) and N.J.R.E. 201(b)(4). Based on the foregoing, and also due to the significant passage of time, I further concur with the ALJ's conclusion that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 13-15; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.1(a), -4.13, -6.3(c), (e), and -6.6(a).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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 advised that she may reapply for WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits should she still be in need of such benefits.



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

Officially approved final version. February 24, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

