



## State of New Jersey

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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 **07705-22 J.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S624935012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), and Emergency Assistance ("EA"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that he had failed to provide documentation required to determine eligibility for said benefits, and denied Petitioner EA benefits because he was neither a WFNJ, nor Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 7, 2022, the Honorable David M. Fritch, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 27, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner had applied for WFNJ/GA benefits, and as part of that application process, he had stated that he had a checking account. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-17 at 10. Based on that statement, Petitioner was required to provide bank account documentation to the Agency, needed to determine eligibility for said benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-17 at 40, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a)(5). The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the required bank statement documentation. See Initial Decision at 3-4, 6. Although Petitioner claimed that he was unable to provide the required documentation because he did not have a checking account, as stated in his application, the bank had closed down in 2021, and he had already provided bank account documents when he had applied for WFNJ/GA benefits over a year ago, the ALJ found Petitioner's claims to be without merit. See Initial Decision at 5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 6; see also Exhibit R-11. I agree. Further, the ALJ also found that Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits on the basis that he was not a WFNJ, or SSI, benefits recipient, and as such, concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-12, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I also agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.



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 he may reapply for WFNJ/GA and EA benefits, but is reminded that he must provide the Agency with all documentation required to determine eligibility for said benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

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

Officially approved final version.

November 30, 2022

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

