



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **09778-21 J.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C668237007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, at redetermination. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits at redetermination, contending that she had failed to return her signed WFNJ/TANF benefits application and failed to provide required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for October 16, 2021, but Petitioner failed to appear. The hearing was rescheduled, and on December 21, 2021, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 4, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that, upon a redetermination for receipt of continued WFNJ/TANF benefits, Petitioner completed a WFNJ/TANF benefits application via telephone on August 30, 2021, which she was then required to sign, date, and return to the Agency, along with a signed Agreement to Re-Pay ("Agreement") and certain other documentation. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2, -1.6(a), -1.2, -2.2(a)(5), -3.22. Thereafter, the record reflects that the Agency had notified Petitioner that her application was still pending receipt of the required documents. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2. The record further reflects that Petitioner had failed to return the signed application, the signed Agreement, and certain other required documents by September 30, 2021, and as a result, effective November 1, 2021, the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the Agency with all documentation required to determine continued eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits and therefore, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits was proper and must stand. Id. at 4. I agree.

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 benefits, if she has not already done so, and that she must provide the Agency with all required documentation necessary to determine her eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also 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.

February 22, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

