



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 **00966-22 K.J.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S560053009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that he failed to provide required documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 24, 2022, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On March 1, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Legal Services, on behalf of Petitioner, on March 9, 2022.

Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide documentation to the Agency as required, which documentation was needed to determine his WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). Specifically, the ALJ found that the Agency had provided Petitioner with an envelope pre-addressed directly to the Agency unit responsible for processing the documents, yet Petitioner instead chose to have a third party email the requested documents to two separate Agency email accounts, neither of which were the individuals or units responsible for processing the documents. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit P-1. Consequently, the ALJ found that the documents attached to that email were never received by the appropriate person in the correct Agency unit. See Initial Decision at 3-4. Moreover, the ALJ found that it could not be determined that the documents attached to the subject email were, in fact, the documents required by the Agency, and that Petitioner had not testified that the documents provided by him at the hearing, and comprising Exhibit P-3, were indeed the documents actually attached to the subject email. Id. at 4; see also Exhibits P-1, P-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had failed to provide the required documents to the correct Agency unit, and as such, further concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibits R-1 at 1-5, R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), (f), -2.2(a)(5). I agree.



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 benefits, if he has not done so already, and is further advised that he must provide all documents requested by the Agency required to determine his WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

By way of further comment, I have reviewed the Exceptions submitted on behalf of Petitioner, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version.

April 6, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

