



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*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 **06928-22 M.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C246091016 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. On September 12, 2022, the Honorable Danielle Pasquale, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, and took testimony.

On September 20, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner had abandoned his appeal of the termination because, while the ALJ was on the bench, and prior to the end of the hearing where many issues had already been discussed at length, Petitioner left the telephonic hearing and did not call back. See Initial Decision at 2. Accordingly, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits. Ibid. I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision filed by Petitioner on October 3, 2022.

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, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

By way of further comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, if he has not already done so.

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

Officially approved final version.

October 5, 2022

---

Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

