



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
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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 **02348-22 M.K.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S598617009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Work First New Jersey/ General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that she had failed to provide information required to determine her eligibility for said extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for April 19, 2022, however, a settlement was entered into by the parties on January 6, 2022, and that hearing was adjourned. The settlement failed, and the matter was then rescheduled for April 28, 2022. The matter was rescheduled a second time for June 6, 2022. On that date, the Honorable JoAnn LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record closed on June 28, 2022.

On June 29, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that the only issue before the court is the MED-1 form provided by Petitioner's physician to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1 at 7-9. The record indicates that Petitioner had exhausted her lifetime limit of WFNJ/GA benefits, and in order for her to be granted additional WFNJ/GA benefits, she must qualify for an exemption from said lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), -2.4(a). The record also reflects that the Agency had requested that Petitioner provide it with a MED-1 form, indicating a "permanent" disability for a period of 12 months, as required to determine her eligibility for continued WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(3)(i). However, Petitioner provided the Agency with a MED-1 form, indicating that she was "temporarily" disabled for a period of 12 months. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1 at 7-9. Based on the MED-1 forms provided, the Agency denied Petitioner an extension of WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -2.4(a)(3)(i). Based upon the testimony and documentary evidence presented, and the plain language of the applicable regulatory provision, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner did not qualify for an extension of WFNJ/GA benefits due to her failure to provide the required 12-month MED-1 form, and affirmed the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner for failure to provide proper documentation. See Initial Decision at 4. I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Legal Services, on behalf of Petitioner, on July 6, 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, Petitioner is advised that she may reapply for an extension of WFNJ/GA benefits, if she has not already done so, but must provide a valid 12-month MED-1 form indicating a "permanent" disability. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(3)(i).

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.

August 18, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

