



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 **09901-21 M.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S638039012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that she had failed to provide required documents. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 7, 2022, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open to allow Petitioner the opportunity to supplement the record with the requested documents. No such documents were received, and the record then closed on January 18, 2022.

On January 25, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide all documentation requested by the Agency, required to determine her WFNJ/TANF benefits eligibility, and that some of the documentation that she had provided was illegible. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibits R-2 through R-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). Petitioner disputed the need for certain documents, and also disputed that some of the documents she had provided were illegible. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Petitioner was afforded the opportunity to submit the requested documents to the tribunal, but she failed to do so. *Id.* at 2-4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had failed to meet her burden to establish that she had complied with the WFNJ/TANF benefits eligibility requirement, and as such, concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). 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.

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



Officially approved final version.

February 17, 2022

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

