



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 **01064-22 S.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C807962007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), Emergency Assistance ("EA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits because Petitioner failed to provide required documentation necessary to determine eligibility. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because Petitioner was not a WFNJ or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 14, 2022, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a pre-hearing conference with the parties by telephone. At that time, Petitioner was advised of the various documentation which was necessary in order to determine eligibility for WFNJ and SNAP benefits, including documentation to verify citizenship. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner was also advised that eligibility for EA benefits necessitated that she first be determined eligible for WFNJ benefits. *Ibid.* With respect to providing documentation to establish citizenship, it was explained to Petitioner the possible means by which citizenship could be verified, including providing a copy of her birth certificate, and how she could obtain a copy of same. *Ibid.* Petitioner then stated that she had no intention of taking "such action" to acquire a copy of her birth certificate, and hung up from the telephone conference. *Ibid.* On February 16, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, finding that Petitioner had abandoned her fair hearing, and thereby affirming the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA, EA and SNAP benefits. *Id.* at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.10, -6.2(a) and N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.5.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, as I find that Petitioner abandoned her appeal in this matter and, therefore, I affirm the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA, EA and SNAP benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determinations are AFFIRMED, and Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed.



Officially approved final version.

February 22, 2022

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

