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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 **07493-22 T.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C264418020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION 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 documentation required to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 15, 2022, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open for submission additional documents, and then closed on September 26, 2022.

On October 3, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had applied for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and as part of that application process, she was required to provide certain documentation to the Agency, needed to determine her eligibility for said benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a) (5). The ALJ also found, and Petitioner did not deny, that she had received written notification of the documentation required to be provided to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10.90-1.6(f). Specifically, Petitioner was required to provide the Agency with three months of bank checking/saving statements (current and consecutive). See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1. The ALJ found, and Petitioner acknowledged, that she had failed to provide the required bank statement documentation. See Initial Decision at 2-4. The record also reflects that the ALJ held the record open to allow Petitioner the opportunity to provide said statements to the court, but she failed to do so. *Id.* at 3-4; see also Exhibit P-5. Although Petitioner claimed that the documents she had provided with her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits application were sufficient enough for the Agency to determine her eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits, the ALJ found Petitioner's claim to be without merit. See Initial Decision at 3-4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-2. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.



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 WFNJ/TANF benefits, but is reminded that she must provide the Agency with all documentation required to determine eligibility for said benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

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

Officially approved final version. November 2, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

