



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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 **01600-22 T.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S792901009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that he 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 March 29, 2022, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open for submission and receipt of written summations, and then closed on April 19, 2022.

On May 19, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had applied for WFNJ/GA benefits, and as part of that application process, he was required to provide certain documentation to the Agency, needed to determine his eligibility for said benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-6, 9, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a) (5), -14.5(a), (e). Petitioner acknowledged having received written notification of the documentation required to be provided to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9. The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide all documentation, including the regulatory required forms WFNJ/GA-30 "Authorization for Reimbursement of Initial Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Payment, or Initial SSI Post Eligibility Payments" and WFNJ/GA-30A "Agreement to Repay Assistance from Initial SSI Payment." Id. at 3-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-14.5(a), (e). Although Petitioner claimed that he had not received the WFNJ/GA-30 and 30-A forms, and that he had provided the Agency with all its requested information on several occasions by mail and also by facsimile, the ALJ found Petitioner's claims unpersuasive and unsubstantiated by the evidence presented. Id. at 3-6; see also Exhibit P-1, and Petitioner's Br. at 1-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Legal Services, on behalf of Petitioner, on May 24, 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 he may reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, but is reminded that he 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).

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.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

