



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 **12432-25 P.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C014600014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to complete her redetermination which is necessary to determine continued eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On August 7, 2025, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On August 15, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on January 31, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On February 24, 2025, the Agency sent a Notification Form stating Petitioner was approved for WFNJ/GA benefits effective February 1, 2025, until her determination period ended on June 30, 2025. Ibid. Thereafter, the Agency scheduled a redetermination telephone interview for May 9, 2025, however, Petitioner did not answer the telephone on that date. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. On May 12, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a Notice of Missed Interview, informing Petitioner that she had missed her scheduled telephone interview and that she must contact the Agency to reschedule the interview. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3. On June 11, 2025, Petitioner was advised that her WFNJ/GA benefits would terminate following her June 2025 benefit payment, as she had not completed her redetermination for benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4. On June 16, 2025, Petitioner contacted the Employment and Training Services ("ETS") via email and requested that her interview be rescheduled, which led to another redetermination interview being scheduled for June 18, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2. On June 18, 2025, Petitioner failed to answer the telephone for her scheduled interview. Ibid. On June 26, 2025, Petitioner again contacted ETS via email, stated that she had not been called for an interview, and requesting a fair hearing. Ibid. At that time, a redetermination interview was scheduled for the next day, June 27, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2-3. On June 27, 2025, Petitioner completed her redetermination interview via telephone, and was advised that she was required to submit the signed redetermination application addenda and provide proof of her application for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") or Social Security Disability ("SSD"). See Initial Decision at 3. Following the telephone interview, a Request for Verification was sent by the Agency on June 27, 2025, requesting the status of Petitioner's SSI/SSD application, as well as a signed application and addendums be returned by June 30, 2025. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-5. On July 2, 2025, Petitioner emailed a variety of verifications to the Agency, all of which were signed and dated on July 1, 2025. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-6, R-7. Petitioner did not provide the Agency with any proof of the status of her SSI/SSD application. See Initial Decision at 3.

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to participate in her telephone redetermination interviews scheduled for May 9, 2025 and June 18, 2025, and that, although she did complete the telephone interview on June



27, 2025, she did not submit all of the verifications requested to the Agency by June 30, 2025, as required, but rather not until July 2, 2025, at 5:03 p.m. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-6. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that, although Petitioner had submitted the documents late to the Agency, potentially due to the disability to which Petitioner testified, Petitioner failed to submit any proof to the Agency as to the status of her pending SSI/SSD application, which was necessary to complete the redetermination for benefits. Ibid.

In order to determine eligibility for WFNJ benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) (stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation."). Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all information required to be verified to determine continued eligibility, and as such, the Agency's termination of WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also 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. September 26, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

