



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 16693-24 T.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C272082009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Emergency Assistance ("EA"), benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that her fiancé/husband's ("R.D.") Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB") income put the household over the maximum allowable benefit level for receipt of said benefits, and terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, as she was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 21, 2025, the Honorable William J. Courtney, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 27, 2025 the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the ALJ in this matter issued a thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, outlining the procedural history, providing a detailed factual timeline, and rendering a well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-4. Specifically, the ALJ found that Petitioner failed to report a change in her household composition to include R.D. and his UIB income, that R.D. began residing with Petitioner during June 2024, that they were married on July 30, 2024, and that he was receiving UIB income in the monthly amount of \$2,300.50, from June 2024, through November 2024. Id. at 2-4; see also Exhibits R-1 at 9-11, R-2. Accordingly, the ALJ found that R.D.'s UIB income put Petitioner's household over the maximum allowable WFNJ/TANF benefit eligibility level of \$559 for an assistance unit of three, such as hers. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a), (c), -3.3(b). The ALJ also found that, because Petitioner was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient, that she was ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Based on the foregoing, and the testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of both Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits and EA benefits were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-4. 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.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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



Officially approved final version. April 02, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

