



State of New Jersey

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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 **09165-25 J.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S463811014 (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 provide information 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 January 27, 2026, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On January 28, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that the Agency conducted a redetermination of benefits interview with Petitioner via telephone on February 21, 2025, after which a redetermination application was mailed to Petitioner, which was to be completed, signed, and returned to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On the same date, the Agency requested additional verifications, which were due by March 3, 2025, in order to determine continued eligibility for benefits, specifically proof of an appeal regarding Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), a rent voucher, a MED-1 form, and the signed application including addendums. Ibid. Petitioner did submit an SSI appeal from February, 2024, however, that appeal had been denied, and Petitioner subsequently submitted a new appeal. Ibid. Petitioner failed to submit the most recent SSI appeal verification. Ibid. Additionally, when he submitted some signature pages via email, they were illegible, and when the Agency requested that Petitioner submit legible copies, he failed to do so. Ibid. Due to Petitioner's failure to respond to the Agency, the Agency denied Petitioner's redetermination application for WFNJ/GA benefits, effective May 1, 2025. 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.").

The ALJ found that the Agency had met its burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Agency had sent the request for verification to Petitioner, and that Petitioner failed to provide the requested verifications. See Initial Decision at 4. 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. Ibid.; 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. February 19, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

