Department of Human Services

Division of Family Development

Advance Notice

Family Development Hearings/Emergency Fair Hearings

To Whom It May Concern:

The New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development and the Office of Administrative Law intend to jointly amend the method by which recipients may submit a petition for an exception or objection to an initial decision. The amendments to N.J.A.C. 10:90-9.17 would require that exceptions and objections to initial decisions be submitted in writing only. This ensures that the record accurately reflects the recipient’s exception or objection. A concurrent amendment to N.J.A.C. 1:10-12.2 would be proposed to align the special hearing rules by deleting the reference to exceptions by telephone for fair hearings involving Work First New Jersey cases.

Operationally, the Division has found that accepting exceptions in writing, both for sake of accuracy and efficiency, is a best practice and seeks to update the regulatory language to reflect this preferred policy and practice.

Interested parties may submit informal comments on this advance notice within thirty (30) days of its publication on the Department of Human Services’ website. Please submit your informal comments to:

Megan Mazzoni, Administrative Practice Officer

Division of Family Development

P.O. Box 716

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0716

Or via e-mail to: [DFD-Regulations@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DFD-Regulations@dhs.nj.gov)

You will also have a 60-day opportunity to submit formal comments on any actual proposed amendments subsequent to the publication of such proposal in the New Jersey Register. Such proposal will also be published on the Department of Human Services’ website.