



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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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 6560-15 B.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA141214 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's reduction of her monthly Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits for the month of April 2015. The Agency reduced Petitioner's benefits due to a failure to submit an updated MED-1 form. On June 16, 2015, the Honorable Jeffery A. Gerson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On June 24, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision finding that the Agency did not provide proper notice to Petitioner as to the reason for the reduction in benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ explained that given the inadequacy of the Agency's notice to Petitioner, prior to its reducing Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits for the month of April 2015 from \$210.00 to \$140.00, Petitioner's benefits should not be penalized for the month. Ibid. The ALJ further explained that Petitioner was cooperative with the Agency, and that the timing of the Agency's notice, as well as the fact that it lacked any explanation for its action, did not permit Petitioner time to ameliorate the deficiency ultimately claimed by the Agency. Ibid. The ALJ ordered that the Agency credit Petitioner the amount of \$70.00 dollars for the month April 2015. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 Initial Decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in the matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in the matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is REVERSED.

**JUL 14 2015**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Director