



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 1375-15 H.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA457451 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's imposition of a sanction affecting Petitioner's receipt of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits because Petitioner did not comply with his WFNJ work activity during a particular period of time. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 6, 2015, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The ALJ left the record open until March 20, 2015, in order to allow Petitioner to submit documentation, and the record then closed. On March 23, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

I agree with the ALJ that the Agency appropriately imposed a sanction affecting WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits because Petitioner was chronically absent from his WFNJ work activity, without good cause, between December 19, 2014, and January 25, 2015. N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13. Initial Decision at 2-3; Exhibits R-5 through R-8.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

APR - 6 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director