



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

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*Governor*

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*Lt. Governor*

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*Acting Commissioner*

Natasha Johnson  
*Director*  
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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 16006-15 L.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C311836 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), *f/k/a* the Food Stamp Program, benefits, and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency terminated Petitioner's benefits because it contended that Petitioner voluntarily quit her employment without good cause. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 13, 2015, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On October 14, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision reversing the Agency determination.

In his Initial Decision, the ALJ found that the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF, SNAP, and EA/TRA benefits based on its erroneous determination that Petitioner had voluntarily quit her job. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-4. In addition, the Agency incorrectly assumed that Petitioner was denied Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB") because of a voluntary quit, even though the claim clearly indicates that Petitioner did not work enough hours to qualify for UIB benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit P-5. Based on the evidence presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not voluntarily quit her job, but that she left her employment for good cause because of a lack of child care for her infant daughter. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit P-3. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's action should be reversed, and that Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF, SNAP, and EA/TRA benefits should be immediately reinstated retroactive to the dates of termination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and, having made an independent evaluation of the record, I concur with the Initial Decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

OCT 28 2015

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Natasha Johnson  
Director