



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 5002-15 R.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C216023 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits because he failed to complete his required WFNJ 28-day work activity in a timely manner. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 15, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On June 25, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that although Petitioner was a few days late completing and submitting his required job search logs, due to circumstances beyond his control, namely a snow storm and extreme back pain, he had good cause for failing to timely complete his work activity. See Initial Decision at 2. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency improperly denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, and directed the Agency to provide Petitioner with WFNJ/GA benefits retroactive to February 17, 2015. *Id.* at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8).

No Exceptions to this 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 final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

JUL - 7 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director