



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 6468-15 T.E.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA70785 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her Work First New Jersey/ General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") back benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits for the month of April for failing to provide the Agency with required information. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 2, 2015, the Honorable Tiffany M. Williams, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On June 3, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision reversing the Agency's determination.

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 and the Initial Decision and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision of the ALJ and REVERSE the Agency's determination.

An applicant/recipient, as a condition of eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, shall, among other things, provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

In the instant matter, the issue is whether Petitioner is entitled to back benefits for the month of April 2015. Petitioner testified that, at the time of her recertification in January 2015, she was only asked to provide her license, social security card and PSE&G Bill; but not her divorce decree. See Initial Decision at 2.

Subsequent to her recertification, Petitioner was provided WFNJ/GA benefits for the months of January through March 2015. Ibid. The Agency did not dispute Petitioner's eligibility for those months but instead, stated the need for the divorce decree did not arise until April of 2015. Ibid. Petitioner testified she first learned of the Agency's requirement that she provide her divorce decree on April 1, 2015. Id. at 3. Petitioner then provided the requested information the very next day. Ibid. The ALJ found Petitioner's testimony credible and ordered the Agency to pay Petitioner back benefits for the month of April. Ibid. I agree.

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

JUN 23 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director