



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development  
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*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 11670-15 T.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA524451 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application because it found Petitioner had voluntarily quit her job. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 26, 2015, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On August 27, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ noted Petitioner is a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") recipient who testified that she voluntarily left her employment in March 2015, because her working hours, workplace conditions, and rules were not adequately explained to her. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA was subsequently denied on July 9, 2015, with a retroactive effective date of June 26, 2015. Id. at 3; see also Exhibit R-4. The ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial was appropriate as there were no good cause provisions appropriate for Petitioner's leaving her employment. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.15 and -4.11. I agree. However, I note that a WFNJ cash assistance applicant is ineligible for benefits for a period of 90 days beginning with the date of quit. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.15. Therefore, since Petitioner quit her employment in March 2015, see Exhibit R-2, she may now reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits as the 90-day ineligibility period has since lapsed.

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 decision 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 action in this matter is AFFIRMED.

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

SEP 18 2015

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Natasha Johnson  
Director